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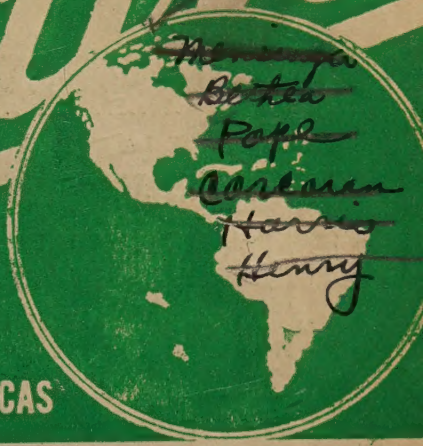

MUNICIPAL DIGEST OF THE AMERICAS

AÑO XI — ENERO A DICIEMBRE, 1950 — NOS. 1 AL 12

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BREVE RELATO DE LA III REUNION DEL C. I. M.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE III, I. C. M.

I CONGRESO NACIONAL DE MUNICIPIOS BRASILEÑOS

I CONGRESS OF BRAZILIAN MUNICIPALITIES

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OMISION PANAMERICANA DE COOPERACION INTERMUNICIPAL
LA HABANA, CUBA

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AVISO — NOTICE

A partir del próximo número, este Boletín se enviará solamente a las publicaciones que mantengan el canje; a los miembros efectivos de la Organización y a los donantes y suscriptores. Igual procedimiento se seguirá con la "Revista Municipal Interamericana", que se distribuye ahora por primera vez, junto con este Boletín.

Beginning with the subsequet number, this Digest will be distributed only to publications and institutions mantaining the exchange, to members of the Organization and to donators and subscribers. The same will be applied to the distribution of the "Inter-American Municipal Review", now for the first time in circulation.

Precio de este número extraordinario	$ 1.50
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Si este "Boletín" es suyo y no lo colecciona páselo a otro que le interese; y si lo tomó de alguna biblioteca u oficina y terminó de leerlo, devuélvalo. Se lo agradeceremos todos.

III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios

Del 30 de abril al 5 de mayo de 1950, se celebró en la Ciudad de Nueva Orleans la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, que había sido convocada por la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal aprovechando la gentil invitación del Sr. deLesseps S. Morrison, Alcalde de dicha Ciudad.

A pesar de las dificultades inherentes a la escasez de dólares en los países centro y sur americanos, asistieron a esta reunión representantes de todos los países de la América y el Dominio del Canadá, con excepción de la república de Costa Rica, de la que se esperaba la asistencia del Sr. Gobernador de San José, que se vió imposibilitado de asistir.

La celebración de esta reunión fué realzada por el hecho de coincidir con la toma de posesión, el día 1º de mayo, del señor Morrison como Alcalde de la Ciudad por un nuevo término y especialmente por la presencia del Honorable Presidente de Chile, S. E. el Sr. Gabriel González Videla, que presidió la Sesión Plenaria inaugural; del Presidente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, Embajador de México ante dicha Organización, Excmo. Sr. Luis Quintanilla, el Embajador de los Estados Unidos de América ante la propia OEA, Excmo. Sr. Paul C. Daniels y el señor Paul R. Kelbaugh, Jefe de la División de Organismos y Conferencias de la Unión Panamericana, que asistieron como observadores y laboraron con gran interés y alto espíritu de cooperación en todos los actos de la reunión.

Fué muy significativa también la presencia de Delegados de varios gobiernos nacionales que concurrieron autorizados para discutir y aprobar los nuevos Estatutos de la Organización.

El discurso de apertura de S. E. el Sr. Gabriel González Videla, Presidente de Chile, de puro sabor municipalista y los mensajes del Honorable Señor Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América, Sr. Harry S. Truman, del Departamento de Estado de esta Nación y del Primer Ministro del Dominio del Canadá, son francos testimonios de la importancia y relieve del movimiento de cooperación intermunicipal en el hemisferio occidental. Igualmente se recibió un cordial mensaje de la Unión Internacional de Autoridades Locales.

En el orden social, el gran número de actos magníficos organizados por diversas entidades, haciendo patente la espléndida hospitalidad de Nueva Orleans, permitió a los Delegados relacionarse y fraternizar en un ambiente de la más genuina y sencilla cordialidad, con la sociedad y las clases activas de esta progresista Ciudad.

La Prensa escrita y radiodifundida dedicó gran atención y dió una extensa publicidad a todos los actos de la reunión.

La aprobación de los nuevos Estatutos de la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal (O.I.C.I.) y las resoluciones y acuerdos adoptados, tanto de carácter general como con relación al resultado de los trabajos presentados y de las discusiones que tuvieron lugar en las sesiones técnicas, acerca de los cuatro

temas seleccionados para esta reunión, o sean: 1) Relaciones entre los municipios y las más altas esferas de gobierno, especialmente de carácter hacendístico; 2) Acción y función de los municipios en la solución de los problemas de la vivienda; 3) Planeación municipal; y 4) Sugestiones para la solución de los problemas del tránsito en las ciudades, según constan en el Acta Final, son prueba evidente del interés con que se trabajó en el corto espacio de tiempo disponible para esta finalidad.

El número de ofertas recibidas para la celebración de la IV Reunión, en el año 1952, constituye un índice muy estimulante del brillante futuro del movimiento municipalista en este hemisferio.

Para que todas aquellas personas o entidades, que no pudieron por una u otra razón asistir a este evento, puedan obtener una idea lo más cercana posible a la realidad en el desenvolvimiento del mismo, reseñaremos sus diversas etapas.

Sesiones de la C. P. C. I.

Sábado, 29 de abril, 4:00 p.m.

Se reunió la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, con la presencia de los señores Louis Brownlow, Director General, que actuó de Presidente, Herbert Emmerich, asistido por el Sr. John J. Kennedy, Daniel W. Hoan, José M. Cuéllar y el Secretario, Carlos M. Morán.

El Presidente manifestó que ocupaba la Presidencia, como Director General, en virtud de que el Dr. Antonio Beruff Mendieta se había visto imposibilitado de asistir.

El Secretario informó que los otros miembros señores Luis L. Boffi, Héctor Romero Menéndez, Manuel Rodó, Rafael Brouard y el Alcalde Municipal de La Habana, habían avisado que no podrían asistir por diversas razones. Que el Sr. Ricardo González Cortés había delegado en el Sr. Abel Gutiérrez, que no había llegado aún, que el Alcalde Municipal de La Habana, había delegado en el informante y que el Profesor Xavier no había llegado tampoco.

Asimismo, el Secretario hizo la presentación del Sr. José M. Cuéllar, Secretario de Gobierno de la Municipalidad de Bogotá y dió lectura al oficio del Secretario General Encargado del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de Colombia, de fecha 25 de abril, por el que se comunica a la Secretaría, que el Sr. José Manuel Cuéllar había sido designado por el Alcalde Mayor de la Ciudad de Bogotá como su Representante Permanente ante la Comisión y que con tal carácter el Sr. Cuéllar estará presente en la reunión de la misma. El Secretario explicó que el Sr. Cuéllar sustituirá al Dr. Rubén A. García, fallecido.

El Presidente, a nombre de todos dió la bienvenida al Sr. Cuéllar y le expresó el agrado de todos por su presencia en la reunión, disponiendo que se archive el oficio y que por la Secretaría se acuse recibo y agradezca al Señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de la República de Colombia y al Señor Alcalde Mayor de la Ciudad de Bogotá esta valiosa colaboración.

El Presidente sometió a la consideración de los presentes el proyecto de Reglamento redactado por la Secretaría, para las reuniones de los

Congresos Interamericanos de Municipios, el que quedó aprobado en la siguiente forma:

REGLAMENTO PARA LAS REUNIONES DEL CONGRESO INTERAMERICANO DE MUNICIPIOS

Objetivos.

Artículo I. Los Congresos Interamericanos de Municipios formulan la política y los principios generales de la cooperación intermunicipal en todos sus aspectos y en relación con los temas o asuntos que figuren en sus programas y determinan la estructura de la organización y el funcionamiento de sus partes.

Reuniones.

Artículo II. El Congreso Interamericano de Municipios se reunirá periódicamente, cada dos años, en la fecha fijada por la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal o su Comité Ejecutivo, previa consulta con las autoridades de la ciudad que haya ofrecido ser sede del Congreso y con el Consejo Consultivo de la Organización.

Artículo III. Cada Congreso Interamericano de Municipios fijará la sede para el próximo; si por cualquier motivo posterior el Congreso no pudiere reunirse en dicha sede, corresponderá a la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal hacer la nueva designación.

Artículo IV. El programa y el reglamento de los Congresos Interamericanos de Municipios serán preparados por la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal.

Miembros.

Artículo V. Todos los Estados y todos los Municipios americanos tienen derecho a hacerse representar en los Congresos Interamericanos de Municipios. También podrán hacerse representar las organizaciones nacionales de municipios; las universidades y las escuelas de asuntos relacionados con la vida municipal; las asociaciones profesionales de la misma índole y tomarán parte, por su propio derecho, los miembros de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal y de sus delegaciones nacionales.

El Presidente y el Secretario de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, consultando a los de la Comisión Local Organizadora del Congreso, designarán a los que deban recibir y examinar las credenciales de las personas que se hayan presentado como delegados al Congreso, con el objeto de informar al mismo, el que se reserva el derecho de aceptar o rechazar las respectivas credenciales, de acuerdo con los principios y normas pre-establecidas para cada caso.

Funcionarios del Congreso.

Artículo VI. La elección del Presidente deberá recaer en una autoridad o funcionario municipal de la ciudad sede del Congreso que se esté celebrando.

En cada reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, podrán designarse varios Vice-Presidentes para actuar como Presidentes en los diversos actos del Congreso, cesando en dichos cargos al cierre de las sesiones.

A los efectos de suplir la falta del Presidente efectivo, se establecerá un turno por sorteo entre los Vice-Presidentes designados.

Artículo VII. Habrá en el Comité Ejecutivo de la organización un delegado de los municipios del país en que se celebró el último Congreso Inter-

americano de Municipios, anterior al que se esté celebrando, que será designado por la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal durante la celebración de los Congresos Interamericanos de Municipios, en igual forma que el Presidente.

Artículo VIII. El Presidente de la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal presidirá la sesión inaugural del Congreso, a no ser que decida, por razones de cortesía, cederla a otra persona, y continuará presidiendo hasta que su sucesor sea elegido, por mayoría de votos, a propuesta del Comité de Postulaciones que lo será la propia Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal.

Artículo IX. La Secretaría General de los Congresos Interamericanos de Municipios estará a cargo del Secretario General Permanente, que es elegido por el Congreso, a propuesta del Comité Ejecutivo de la Organización.

Estará auxiliado en sus labores por el personal de la Secretaría General Permanente y el de la Comisión Local Organizadora del Congreso.

Procedimientos del Congreso.

Artículo X. El Consejo Consultivo se reunirá en las fechas en que se reúna el Congreso Interamericano de Municipios y será presidido por el Presidente de la Organización, a fin de:

a) Formular y someter al Congreso Interamericano de Municipios proposiciones tendientes al fortalecimiento de la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, y recomendaciones tendientes a coordinar las actividades de los órganos de la misma.

b) Emitir su dictamen con respecto al proyecto de presupuesto anual de gastos de la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal que presente la Secretaría General.

c) Determinar, en consulta con los gobiernos respectivos y con vista del montante de los gastos presupuestados, las bases para fijar la cuota con que debe contribuir cada uno de los gobiernos al sostenimiento de la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal.

Artículo XI. La Secretaría General deberá presentar a cada Congreso un informe sobre las labores realizadas desde el Congreso anterior.

Artículo XII. La presentación de trabajos, la designación de Ponentes y Consejeros Técnicos, el número y clase de sesiones que deberán celebrarse y la división de las labores en cada Congreso, serán previamente determinadas y anunciadas por la Secretaría Permanente de la Organización, en consulta con el Comité Ejecutivo.

Artículo XIII. Las decisiones de los Congresos se tomarán de acuerdo con el principio de un voto por cada país.

Artículo XIV. Las conclusiones a que llegue cualquier Comisión de Trabajo que se designe, se someterán a la resolución final del Congreso en Sesión Plenaria.

Artículo XV. Las conclusiones así aprobadas se harán constar en el Acta Final, sin que ello obligue a los gobiernos de los países representados por los asistentes al Congreso, pues el propósito de éste es el de establecer principios y métodos, mediante el intercambio de informaciones, la opinión de los expertos y la confrontación de los resultados de la experien-

cia, que aplicados voluntariamente, contribuyan al logro de los fines de la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal.

Artículo XVI. En cada sesión, de cualquier tipo que sea, se tratarán solamente el asunto mencionado en el Programa del Congreso y cualquiera otro que haya sido aceptado previamente por la Comsiión de Iniciativa. Hablarán por su orden las personas designadas y tanto en las exposiciones o explicaciones de trabajos admitidos como en los debates o discusiones, sólo podrán consumirse los turnos que la Presidencia señale y por el tiempo estricto que se fije por la misma.

Las sesiones comenzarán con puntualidad a la hora señalada, con cualquier número de delegados que esté presente.

Comisión de Iniciativas, Coordinación y Resoluciones.

Artículo XVII. Los Miembros del Comité Ejecutivo de la Organización y los Vice-Presidentes del Congreso compondrán una Comisión de Iniciativas, Coordinación y Resoluciones, la que será presidida por el Presidente del Congreso. Esta Comisión examinará los proyectos y propuestas que habrán de ser sometidos al Congreso y coordinará las actividades de las diversas Comisiones en que pueda estar dividido el Congreso o que sean nombradas para el desarrollo de fases particulares de sus asuntos.

Comisión de Estilo.

Artículo XVIII. Habrá una Comisión de Estilo, formada por un representante de cada uno de los idiomas oficiales del Congreso, encargada de examinar y coordinar el texto de las resoluciones presentadas en los diversos idiomas. Esta Comisión elegirá de entre sus miembros un Presidente y un Vice-Presidente.

PROYECTO DE NUEVOS ESTATUTOS

Todos los presentes conocian con anterioridad el proyecto y el Presidente interesó de éstos que expusieran sus puntos de vista al respecto. Se deliberó ampliamente sobre el mismo haciendo sugestiones varios de los miembros de la Comisión respecto a su aprobación, estando todos acordes el mismo sería aprobado en su oportunidad, ya que, según expresó el Dr. Morán, no se habían recibido objecciones de ningún país.

El Sr. Emmerich informó que el Sr. Paul C. Daniels, Embajador de los EE. UU. de América ante la Organización de los Estados Americanos había sido designado observador de este Congreso por el Departamento de Estado de dicho país y que llegaría a la Ciudad a las dos de la tarde del lunes, día primero de mayo y expresó su opinión de que creía conveniente oirle con respecto a los mismos, pues tenía entendido que, si le era permitido, haría algunas sugestiones que pudieran ser útiles. El Sr. Secretario informó que también se esperaba que asistiera, el Excmo. Sr. Luis Quintanilla, Presidente de la O.E.A.

El Secretario informa igualmente que ha recibido una carta del señor William Manger, que está actuando como Secretario de la Unión Panamericana en ausencia del Dr. Alberto Lleras Camargo, el que está en viaje por Centro América, participando que el Sr. Paul R. Kelbaugh, Jefe de la División de Organismos y Conferencias de la Unión Panamericana ha sido designado para que concurra como observador a esta III Reunión del C.I.M., en representación de la Secretaría General de la Organización de los Estados Americanos.

Se acordó invitarlos a una reunión de esta Comisión y se designó a los señores Emmerich y Morán para que les dieran la bienvenida en el aeropuerto.

Igualmente se acordó que el proyecto de Estatutos fuera discutido y aprobado por la Comisión en sesión conjunta con los señores que ostentan delegación especial de los gobiernos y los que sean presidentes de delegaciones antes de someterlo a la sesión plenaria del Congreso.

Domingo, 30 de abril, 3:00 p.m.

Volvió a reunirse la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal bajo la Presidencia del señor Louis Brownlow y actuando de Secretario el Dr. Carlos M. Morán. Se designó, de acuerdo con lo dispuesto en el segundo párrafo del Artículo V del Reglamento aprobado en el día anterior, el Comité de Credenciales, compuesto por el Sr. Daniel W. Hoan, como Presidente, el Sr. José M. Monasterio, de la Comisión Local Organizadora del Congreso y el doctor Carlos M. Morán.

En cumplimiento de lo dispuesto en el Artículo XVIII se procedió a formar la Comisión de Estilo que quedó constituída por los siguientes señores: Mr. Rowland Egger (EE.UU. de A.), Presidente; Sra. Felisa Rincón de Gautier, Alcaldesa de Puerto Rico (EE.UU. de A.); José M. Cuéllar (Colombia); Virgilio Alvarez Sánchez (República Dominicana); e Ismael Puerta Flores (Venezuela).

Sesiones Especiales de la C. P. C. I.

Lunes, 1º de mayo, 4:00 p.m.

Se reunió la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, representantes de Gobiernos Nacionales y Jefes de Delegaciones, actuando de Presidente el Director General, señor Louis Brownlow, y de Secretario, el Dr. Carlos M. Morán.

A esta reunión que fué especialmente convocada para conocer del proyecto de nuevos Estatutos para la Organización, concurrieron, especialmente invitados, el Excmo. Sr. Luis Quintanilla, Embajador de México ante la O.E.A. y Presidente actual de la misma, el Excmo. Sr. Paul C. Daniels, Embajador de los EE. UU. de América ante la mencionada Organización y designado como observador por el Departamento de Estado de los EE. UU. de América y el Sr. Paul R. Kelbaugh, Jefe de la División de Organismos y Conferencias de la Unión Panamericana, nombrado observador por la Secretaría General de la O.E.A.

También concurrió el Arq. Sr. Abel Gutiérrez Aguilera, de Chile, en representación del Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo por los Municipios Suramericanos, Arq. Sr. Ricardo González Cortés, que se vió imposibilitado de concurrir.

Igualmente fueron citados para esta reunión los señores Delegados de gobiernos nacionales y los Presidentes de las Delegaciones de cada país, los que concurrieron en su mayoría.

El Sr. Brownlow explicó a los presentes que esta era una reunión especial integrada por las diversas categorías de representaciones antes mencionadas, con el fin de conocer las objeciones que pudieran hacerse al proyecto de nuevos Estatutos para la Organización, que ya se había distribuído ampliamente con anterioridad

al inicio de las labores del Congreso y también al momento de inscribirse los Delegados.

Expresó que como quiera que dichos Estatutos contemplaron la posibilidad de que esta Organización se convirtiera en un organismo interamericano especializado de acuerdo con la Carta de la O.E.A., constituía un gran privilegio que se encontraran presentes tan distinguidas personalidades de la mencionada Organización, como el Presidente de la misma, Excmo. señor Luis Quintanilla, el Excmo. Sr. Paul C. Daniels y el Sr. Paul R. Kelbaugh, que habían aceptado gentilmente la invitación que se les había extendido y que honraban con su presencia esta reunión, haciendo patente sus buenos deseos de cooperación y el alto grado en que estimaban a este movimiento intermunicipal. Que salvo el mejor parecer de los presentes, como paso previo a toda discusión del proyecto de Estatutos, debía oírse a los señores Quintanilla y Daniels, de modo que sus sugestiones, fundamentales para cualquier acuerdo a que se llegara, fueran tenidas en cuenta al momento de discutir el repetido proyecto.

Razón que originó la idea de los nuevos Estatutos.

El Dr. Carlos M. Morán usó de la palabra, para, como cuestión previa, explicar el origen y el motivo de la redacción de los nuevos Estatutos, así como el proceso que se había seguido para su divulgación y dijo: que si bien esta Organización de Cooperación Intermunicipal había surgido de una Resolución de la VI Conferencia Internacional Americana celebrada en La Habana, en 1928, los Estatutos de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, acordados en la Ciudad de Chicago, en noviembre de 1939, como consecuencia de la Resolución adoptada por el Primer Congreso Panamericano de Municipios, celebrado en La Habana en 1938, y así había realizado su conocida y beneficiosa labor, una vez que de la Conferencia de San Francisco había surgido la idea de la integración, por iniciativa de México, de un Sistema Interamericano, en el que se coordinaran todas las actividades interamericanas, y que en Bogotá se le dió forma a esa idea en la Carta de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, haciéndose una clasificación de todos los organismos, se creyó necesario que esta organización de cooperación intermunicipal, que había sido previamente clasificada como de carácter semi-oficial, fuera considerada y admitida dentro del expresado Sistema Interamericano, con todas las prerrogativas que fueran inherentes a su carácter interamericano, a su especialización y a su larga y seria labor realizada en beneficio de los municipios de la América, de modo de evitar que en cualquier momento se le ignorara o se adoptara algún acuerdo por la O.E.A. que pudiera dañar o perjudicar su existencia, procurando a la vez fortalecer su vida y aumentar sus posibilidades de servicio y utilidad; que a esos fines y oyendo diversas sugestiones, se redactó un proyecto de Estatutos, basado esencialmente en la redacción de la propia Carta de la O.E.A., que es el que ha sido distribuído y conocen los Delegados que han venido a esta reunión; que al conocer dichos Estatutos, el Gobierno de la República de Cuba, altamente interesado en todo lo referente a intermunicipalidad, por haber surgido esta idea de un Acuerdo del Ayuntamiento de La Habana, se procedió, por el Ministerio de Estado de dicha República, a instruir a sus misiones diplomáticas en los diversos países de la América, para que interesaran de

os Gobiernos el estudio de dicho pro-
yecto y el envío a esta reunión de De-
egados de los Gobiernos Nacionales
on autorización y plenos poderes pa-
a discutir y votar los nuevos Esta-
utos de esta Organización, labor que
e completó con la visita personal del
Dr. Manuel Sanguily, Director de la
Oficina Panamericana del Ministerio
de Estado de la República de Cuba,
los señores Embajadores y Minis-
ros de las Repúblicas de América an-
e el Gobierno de Cuba, con el fin de
nacer igual ruego para que fuera
ransmitido a los respectivos Gobier-
os; que aparte de ello, el Secretaria-
lo de la C.P.C.I. circuló profusamen-
e el proyecto de Estatutos e invitó a
odos los gobiernos y a todos los mu-
icipios, consejos municipales, insti-
uciones, etc., de las ciudades de más
le 50,000 habitantes, acompañando el
emario técnico de la reunión y ma-
ifestando que en la misma se trata-
ía también como un punto vital pa-
a esta Organización de la adopción
le los nuevos Estatutos, por lo que
así queda explicada la razón por la
ual concurren a esta reunión Dele-
gados de Gobiernos y Delegados de
Municipios. Que igualmente, y por
ntermedio del Excmo. Sr. Gonzalo
Güell, Embajador de Cuba ante la
O.E.A., se hizo una invitación espe-
ial al Sr. Presidente de la misma,
aciéndosele saber que sería designa-
o, como así lo ha sido, Presidente de
Honor de esta Organización.

Hecha esta explicación, el Presi-
ente Sr. Brownlow, concedió la pa-
abra al Excmo. Sr. Luis Quintanilla,
uien después de dar las gracias por
a invitación y el honor de que había
ido objeto, manifestó el interés de la
O.E.A. por esta Organización y ya
efiriéndose al proyecto de Estatutos
anifestó que encontraba muy bue-
o dicho proyecto, siempre y cuando
e hicieran ciertas modificaciones de
modo que no interfiriera con el texto
y la interpretación que se ha dado
por el Consejo de la O.E.A. a la
Carta de Bogotá.

Manifestaciones del Presidente de la O.E.A.

Señaló que de acuerdo con las normas adoptadas por la Comisión de Organismos Interamericanos del Consejo de la O.E.A., para servir de guía en el estudio de los organismos interamericanos de acuerdo con la Carta de la misma y las resoluciones de la Conferencia de Bogotá, se reconocen dos tipos de organismos interamericanos: uno, organismos especializados; dos, otros organismos interamericanos.

Que para que los organismos especializados interamericanos sean considerados como tales, deben reunir las siguientes condiciones requeridas por la Carta de la O.E.A. en los Artículos 95 a 100, del Capítulo XV: 1) deben ser intergubernamentales; es decir, son entidades oficiales integradas por los propios gobiernos nacionales; 2) deben ser establecidos por acuerdos multilaterales, o sea, por acuerdo entre más de dos gobiernos; 3) deben tener una función determinada; es decir, el propósito que persiguen debe estar claramente especificado;4) su función debe ser de carácter técnico, entendiéndose por materia técnica las funciones que corresponden a todos los campos de la colaboración internacional con excepción del político; y 5) la materia de sus actividades debe ofrecer interés común a los Estados americanos, es decir, que no quedan comprendidos dentro de la categoría de organismos especializados interamericanos los que se constituyan por motivos de orden regional o bien para satisfacer cualquier otra necesidad.

Que una vez definido el carácter de los organismos especializados, se acepta que por otros organismos

interamericanos se entenderá todos aquellos (semi-oficiales o particulares) que no llenan los requisitos de los especializados.

Que la distinción entre esos grupos es sólo una distinción establecida de acuerdo con las disposiciones de la Carta de la Organización, para fijar las facultades y obligaciones derivadas de la Carta con respecto a dichos organismos, pero que no implica en forma alguna diferencias en cuanto a la importancia de los mismos.

Que la organización de cooperación intermunicipal a que se refiere el proyecto de Estatutos, reúne cuatro de las cinco condiciones señaladas en el Artículo 95 de la Carta de la O.E.A. para poder ser considerada como organismo especializado interamericano, pero le falta la primera, es decir, que no es una entidad oficial establecida por los propios gobiernos nacionales.

Que esto traería como consecuencia al conocer dichos Estatutos el Consejo de la O.E.A., que pudiera adoptarse un acuerdo contrario a los mismos, sin que las ventajas que pudieran derivarse para la organización intermunicipal, de ser un organismo especializado en la forma que lo define la Carta de la O.E.A., sean de tal naturaleza que justifiquen tomar tal riesgo que puede redundar en perjuicio de la Organización.

Que este movimiento de cooperación intermunicipal tiene grandes simpatías dentro del Consejo de la O.E.A. y dentro de su Secretaría General, siendo perfectamente posible que se pueda llegar, bien por medio de un intercambio de notas o por un convenio, a la celebración de acuerdos en virtud de los cuales se definan las relaciones entre esta organización intermunicipal y la O.E.A. que sean útiles y beneficiosas para ambas, ofreciéndose él mismo —y cree que igual lo haría su compañero el Embajador Daniels— a realizar las gestiones pertinentes dentro del Consejo para que se establezcan sobre ciertas bases definidas las expresadas relaciones, tan pronto se conozca todo lo que esta Organización de Cooperación Intermunicipal desea obtener como ayuda o colaboración de parte de la O.E.A.

Que esta Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal tiene grandes posibilidades y unas proyecciones magníficas, cuyos objetivos podrá seguramente realizar de un modo más cabal con una vida autónoma y con el sostenimiento económico de gobiernos, municipios y otras entidades interesadas en los asuntos municipales, así como con el apoyo y cooperación de la Unión Panamericana.

Que reconoce que existe un error fundamental en la clasificación que establece el Artículo 95 de la Carta de la O.E.A. con respecto al uso del vocablo especializado, pero que ese error no puede subsanarse ahora y no es aconsejable que los Estatutos que se van a aprobar incluyan disposiciones según las cuales aparezca coma un organismo especializado interamericano —aún siéndolo—, si ello va en contradicción con lo dispuesto en la Carta.

Que se permite aconsejar que se elimine del proyecto de Estatutos todo lo que pueda estar en contra de la repetida clasificación y que desde ahora repite su ofrecimiento de hacer todo lo que esté a su alcance —y casi se permite anticipar que con éxito— para lograr del Consejo de la O.E.A. el establecimiento de las más cordiales y provechosas relaciones entre la O.I.C.I. y la O.E.A.

El Presidente Sr. Brownlow dió las más expresivas gracias al Excmo. señor Luis Quintanilla por su valioso aporte y concedió la palabra al Excmo. Sr. Paul C. Daniels.

Puntos de vista del Exmo. Sr. Daniels.

El Excmo. Sr. Daniels manifestó que él no estaba autorizado para hablar a nombre de los demás compañeros del Consejo de la O.EA., ni aún en su carácter de Embajador de los EE. UU. de América ante dicha Organización, con respecto a qué es lo que debe hacer esta Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal; pero que había oído a su compañero el Excmo. Sr. Qunitanilla y había leido el proyecto de Estatutos que se iba a discutir y estaba prácticamente de acuerdo con las manifestaciones del señor Quintanilla.

Que estimaba que el proyecto era bueno y que con unos ligeros cambios que se introdujeran en él y los cuales él había anotado, desaparecerían del mismo aquellos puntos que pudieran crear dificultades en el futuro para el establecimiento de las buenas relaciones de ayuda mutua que pueden llegar a establecerse entre la O.I.C.I. y la O. E. A. Que si era posible en algún momento durante la celebración de esta III Reunión, él estaría dispuesto a señalar cuáles son esos puntos, que en su opinión deben ser modificados, y que, igualmente, el señor Paul R. Kelbaugh, Jefe de la División de Organismos y Conferencias de la Unión Panamericana, aquí presente, podría colaborar a los fines antes expresados.

Declaración del Observador del Ministerio de Estado de los E.E. U.U. de A.

A continuación el Excmo. Sr. Paul C. Daniels hizo las siguientes declaraciones:

"Mi país se honra con la presencia aquí de tántos distinguidos Delegados de las ciudades y pueblos de las otras repúblicas americanas, reuniéndose para reforzar los lazos de amistad para discutir los comunes problemas confrontados por las administraciones municipales. Vuestros esfuerzos cuentan con el apoyo de todo corazón del Departamento de Estado, cuya representación ostento, en cuanto es el más valioso empeño de las autoridades locales de aprender por medio de la cooperación internacional, llevando a cada uno el conocimiento de las técnicas desenvueltas para perfeccionar la Administración Municipal. El elemento de pujanza en vuestra Organización (según se proyecta), es la participación directa de expertos individuales, de representantes de municipios y de organizaciones nacionales interesadas en cuestiones municipales. Tal participación directa de los gobiernos locales da a vuestra empresa una cualidad práctica que es muy de desearse. Esta Organización es una magnífica demostración de que la cooperación internacional puede hacerse efectiva no sólo en el orden nacional. Os congratulo y expreso la esperanza de que la buena labor pueda continuar con mayor apoyo, tanto moral como financiero de los municipios del hemisferio en cuyos intereses se concibió la Organización allá por los principios de la segunda decena de este siglo y para cuyos beneficios se está transformando en un instrumento más útil de cooperación interamericana entre los municipios. Si bien mi gobierno no ha estado oficialmente representado en los Congresos anteriores, ni en este III Congreso, en vista de la naturaleza de los mismos, el Departamento de Estado me ha pedido que exprese su interés en estas actuaciones y su esperanza de que el movimiento intermunicipal

panamericano continuará cada vez más fuerte".

El Presidente, Sr. Brownlow expresó su reconocimiento al Excmo. señor Daniels por sus magníficas palabras y sugirió, lo cual fué aceptado por unanimidad, que se suspendiera la sesión a fin de que los señores Emmerich y Morán se reunieran con los Excmos. Señores Quintanilla y Daniels y con el Sr. Kelbaugh, que tan gentilmente se habían ofrecido para ello, a fin de revisar el proyecto de Estatutos y someterlo, ya modificado, a una nueva reunión que tendría lugar a las 3:30 p.m. del próximo día 4.

Jueves, 4 de mayo, 5:30 p.m.

Sesión especial de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, con los delegados de Gobiernos Nacionales y los Jefes de Delegaciones. Observadores: Excmo. Sres. Luis Quintanilla (Organización de Estados Americanos), y Sr. Paul R. Kelbaugh, (Unión Panamericana) y Paul C. Daniels, (Departamento de Estado de los EE. UU. de A.)

Abre la sesión el Presidente señor Louis Brownlow y lee la lista de los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo y de los otros miembros de la Comisión, solicitando del Secretario Dr. Moran que lea la relación de los Jefes de Delegaciones, hecho lo cual, explicó el Sr. Brownlow, que como en otra sesión anterior, ésta estaba integrada por cuatro tipos de personalidades:

1. Los Miembros de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal y su Comité Ejecutivo.
2. Los Delegados de Gobiernos Nacionales.
3. Los Jefes de Delegaciones Municipales, y,
4. Los observadores.

Dice el Sr. Brownlow que en esta sesión se tratarán los siguientes asuntos para someter las decisiones que se adopten a la última sesión plenaria general del Congreso:

a) Consideración de los nuevos Estatutos de la Organización, con las modificaciones que se le han introducido, de acuerdo con la sugestión de los Sres. Quintanilla, Daniels y Kelbaugh.
b) Consideración de los proyectos de resoluciones;
c) Consideración de las invitaciones que se han recibido para la celebración de la IV Reunión, y,
d) Postulación de candidatos.

Explicó el Sr. Brownlow que si los nuevos Estatutos se aprueban, debe hacerse en esta sesión la indicación de quiénes habrán de cubrir los nuevos cargos, de acuerdo con dichos Estatutos; que como es conocido el Comité Ejecutivo lo componen, mientras no se haga una nueva elección, los Sres. Antonio Beruff Mendieta, de La Habana: Presidente; el que habla, Louis Brownlow, de Estados Unidos: Director General; el Dr. Carlos M. Morán: Secretario; el Alcalde de La Habana; el Arq. Sr. Ricardo González Cortés, de Chile, en representación de los Municipios Sur-Americanos y el Sr. Herbert Emmerich, de los EE. UU. de América, en representación del "Comité Americano de Cooperación Municipal Internacional"; que el Dr. Beruff Mendieta, el Alcalde de La Habana y el Sr. González Cortés, se habían visto imposibilitados de asistir, pero que él ostentaba la representación del Dr. Beruff; el doctor Morán la del Alcalde de La Habana y el Arq. Sr. Abel Gutiérrez, aquí presente, la del Sr. González Cortés.

Dijo el Sr. Brownlow que en Secretaría constaban las comunicaciones

de los Miembros de la C.P.C.I., que no habían podido asistir, dando una aprobación previa a cuanto se hiciera, en virtud de haber sido ya informados.

Rogó al Sr. Emmerich que asumiera la Presidencia, por tener necesidad de ausentarse por unos minutos del salón, pero antes de hacerlo explicó, que en los nuevos Estatutos queda abolido el cargo de Director General; que el está próximo también a la abolición, habiéndose retirado ya de todas sus otras actividades de ésta y parecida índole; que él ya había traspasado el límite de los setenta años bíblicos; que su vista era algo débil; y que ya era hora de que otro se hiciera cargo de las labores que durante tantos años había desempeñado con tanta devoción y placer, y que pedía lo excusaran.

El Secretario Dr. Morán, pidió la palabra y dijo que creía necesario aclarar que la supresión del cargo de Director General tenía como fundamento permitir el retiro al Dr. Louis Brownlow, ya que gentilmente él había continuado prestando con toda eficacia e interés sus valiosos servicios a esta organización, después de haberse retirado de todas las otras de que formaba parte, y que ello a la vez constituía un merecido y cumplido homenaje a su labor tan extraordinaria y excelente, como verdadera alma y sostén de la cooperación intermunicipal interamericana, pues al redactarse los nuevos Estatutos se consideró que de no ocupar ese cargo el Sr. Brownlow, debía suprimirse. (Aplausos).

El Sr. Emmerich asume la Presidencia y explica a los asistentes el tiempo y trabajo que habían dedicado los Excmos. Sres. Embajadores Quintanilla y Daniels, el Sr. Kellbaugh y el Dr. Morán a la preparación de los Estatutos con la introducción de las modificaciones que se habían sugerido, que la Organización podía sentirse orgullosa y satisfecha por el beneficio que representaba los buenos consejos de los referidos Embajadores que habían mostrado su interés para que la misma se consolidase en la mejor forma posible y se colocara en una mejor situación que permitiera una futura cooperación más estrecha con la Organización de los Estados Americanos.

Manifestaciones del Excmo. Sr. Luis Quintanilla.

El Excmo. Sr. Luis Quintanilla usó de la palabra. Expresó su simpatía por esta organización y dijo que aunque no está autorizado para ello, se atreve a asegurar que los otros veinte embajadores del Consejo de la O.E.A. sienten los mismos buenos deseos y le darán su apoyo; que en este campo de panamericanismo no puede haber rivalidad alguna entre las diversas organizaciones y que la O.E.A. reconoce y aplaude lo efectuado por esta organización municipal, en busca de mejores relaciones entre los Estados Americanos. Ratifica lo que ya ha dicho sobre lo establecido con respecto a organismos interamericanos en la Carta de Bogotá; cree que es posible que la definición de la Carta esté equivocada en cuanto al concepto de especializado, en relación con dichos organismos, pero que esto no se puede cambiar ahora, y debemos evitar que esta materia de simple etiqueta produzca algún daño o perjuicio a la organización municipal; que no hay diferencia entre organizaciones especializadas y no especializadas, excepto que las primeras, siendo organizaciones constituidas por Gobiernos Nacionales pueden incluir sus ingresos en el presupuesto

de la O.E.A., lo que no significa gran ventaja; que cree que la Organización Intermunicipal Americana no debe convertirse en organización especializada, por la desventaja que esto le ocasionaría en cuanto a sus objetivos y flexibilidad, y porque no siéndolo tendrá la ventaja de obtener recursos de muchas fuentes que de lo contrario le serían vedadas. Llegaría a decir que si la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal fuera un organismo especializado interamericano, de acuerdo con la Carta, perdería su originalidad, se consideraría como una nueva carga onerosa y perdería ese carácter popular y su actuación en la esfera del Municipio. "Os felicito porque no son un organismo especializado". Eso hace más difícil — dijo el Sr. Quintanilla — para los Directores, cobrar las cuotas, pero le dá a esta Organización un carácter sui-generis y simpático. Es conveniente aclarar qué es lo que la O.E.A. puede hacer en ayuda de esta Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal: 1) Reconocer públicamente, si es necesario mediante una resolución del Consejo, la utilidad de esta Organización, resolución que él mismo propondría al Consejo, para lo cual se ofrece expontáneamente. 2) Reconocida la autoridad de esta Organización, podemos entrar en un acuerdo de cooperación y estrecha ayuda. Sería muy difícil ahora delinear en concreto, siquiera un esquema de ése posible acuerdo, pero cree que en la O.E.A. existen muchas facilidades que se podrían poner al alcance y servicio de la O.I.C.I. Que en la Secretaría de aquélla, que tiene un presupuesto de cerca de $3.000.000.00 anuales, existen expertos en muchas cosas que son de interés para esta Organización, en materia de vivienda, salubridad conservación del suelo, etc.

Ofreció el Sr. Quintanilla explorar en Washington las posibilidades de cooperación. Significó que la facultad de la O.E.A. para celebrar convenios bajo el artículo 23, inciso (d) de la Carta de Bogotá, es inequívoco.

El Sr. Quintanilla expresó que ese acuerdo de colaboración él lo defendería y podría incluir todo lo que esta Organización deseara, inclusive ayuda en la preparación de conferencias, que es muy útil por la experiencia que en esto tiene la Unión Panamericana.

Que ésta puede llamar la atención de los gobiernos acerca de la importancia de estas reuniones, pues se comunica con gobiernos y no con municipios, pero ese respaldo puede ser muy útil.

En fin —dijo el Sr. Quintanilla— en lugar de sugerir, esperamos oir de ustedes qué es lo que desean de nosotros y el acuerdo a que lleguemos para la colaboración mutua puede revestir diversas formas: el resultado de un cambio de notas entre las autoridades de esta Organización y las de la O.E.A. o un acuerdo formal entre ambas organizaciones. Habría que explorar cuál forma sería más práctica para llevarlo a cabo en seguida, pues tendrían el mismo valor: el convenio sería más complicado porque haría intervenir la actuación del Consejo, que tardaría más tiempo.

El Sr. Quintanilla terminó diciendo: "Les pido que cualquiera que sea el procedimiento que ustedes escojan, las proposiciones que nos hagan sean muy breves, muy claras y muy concretas y dejen la puerta abierta para cualquier otra ayuda que se le ocurra a la Secretaría de la O.E.A. que pueda prestar, y estoy seguro que el acuerdo a que se llegue, será muy útil para ambas organizaciones.

El Presidente Sr. Emmerich da las gracias al Excmo. Sr. Quintanilla por su decidida y entusiasta cooperación y expresa que de aprobarse los Estatutos, corresponderá al Comité Ejecutivo de la Organización decidir con respecto al acuerdo entre esta Organización y la O.E.A.; que le parecía conveniente que se oyeran opiniones sobre la filosofía y ciertos aspectos de la futura organización y que como el Proyecto de Estatutos, modificado, ya ha sido repartido entre los Delegados, sugiere que para ganar tiempo se considere página por página.

El Sr. Augusto Pumarino (Chile) sugiere que se discutan capítulo por capítulo.

El Sr. Juan Scasso (Uruguay) pregunta si es necesario discutirlos capítulos por capítulo, ya que la nueva redacción contiene el espíritu vigoroso que da valor a la tarea efectuada por sus redactores; que contiene, bien definidos, los objetivos de una nueva y efectiva Organización y que todos los que han participado en la redación son buenos amigos de este Organismo.

Que se ha estudiado muy cuidadosamente, punto por punto, en esta nueva redacción y que estos Estatutos no sólo se ajustan a la situación presente sino miran hacia el futuro; que se ha construído una Organización capaz, eficiente, y que debemos aprovecharla; que tenemos sin duda confianza en todos los que trabajaron en esta nueva redacción y debemos aceptarla por aclamación, pues de lo contrario, estaríamos discutiendo toda la noche y no llegaríamos a conclusiones definitivas.

El Sr. Brin (Panamá) apoya la moción del Sr. Scasso.

El Presidente Sr. Emmerich pregunta antes de continuar, si hay algo en los nuevos Estatutos que impida la entrada del Canadá en la Organización y qué dispone el Art. 42 de los Estatutos.

El Secretario Dr. Morán, contesta que no hay ningún impedimento en relación con la entrada del Canadá y que el Art. 42 de los Estatutos establece las fuentes de ingresos de la Organización.

Resolución de invitar a los Municipios Canadienses.

El Sr. José Manuel Cuéllar (Bogotá, Colombia), pide a la Presidencia que se lea la moción que tiene presentada la Delegación de los Municipios de Bogotá, Barranquilla y Medellín (Colombia), con respecto a la admisión del Canadá.

El Secretario, Dr. Morán lee:

"La III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipalidades, celebrándose en la ciudad de Nueva Orleans,

"Considerando necesario para el completo éxito del movimiento de cooperación intermunicipal en este hemisferio, la incorporación de los Municipios del Canadá a la Organización, ya que con tanta voluntad y dentro del concepto de libertad y democracia que nos inspira, han prestado su valioso concurso para el mayor acercamiento entre las distintas células municipales de la América,

Resuelve:

Invitar a las ciudades canadienses a vincularse de modo permanente a la Organización Interamericana de Municipalidades, enviando representación a los Congresos y en las demás formas previstas por los Estatutos".

El Sr. Pumarino (Chile) apoya el Proyecto de Resolución y a pregun-

tas de la Presidencia se adopta por aclamación.

Declaraciones del Presidente de la delegación Canadiense.

El Sr. McLean (Canadá) agradece profundamente la actuación de los asistentes admitiendo al Canadá por aclamación como miembro de la Organización. Dice que ha seguido con mucho interés las deliberaciones del Congreso y se ha dado perfecta cuenta de lo valioso que es el aporte del mismo para estrechar más los lazos de amistad entre todos los países y municipios de la América; que el Canadá se siente orgulloso de pertenecer a la Organización y que cooperará con la misma en todo lo que pueda; que llevará un mensaje a las organizaciones municipales del Canadá, para interesar al mayor número de municipios posibles en este movimiento de intermunicipalidad continental.

El Presidente Sr. Emmerich anuncia que debe continuarse en la consideración del Proyecto de Estatutos.

Declaración del Delegado del Gobierno de Cuba.

El Sr. Antonio Bruzón (Cuba) pidió la palabra y leyó lo siguiente: "Como representante del Gobierno de Cuba, deseo hacer las siguientes manifestaciones. Cuando mi Gobierno supo que en esta ciudad de Nueva Orleans y gracias a la gentileza de su Alcalde, el Sr. DeLesseps S. Morrison, iba a reunirse el Congreso Interamericano de Municipios y se iban a discutir y aprobar nuevos Estatutos para la Organización, el Ministerio de Estado interesó de la sede en La Habana de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, una copia de dichos Estatutos. Una vez que los mismos se consideraron buenos y de acuerdo con los principios establecidos por Cuba, donde se originó esta idea en materia de cooperación intermunicipal, o intermunicipalidad, como le llamó su originador, el ex-Concejal del Ayuntamiento de La Habana, Sr. Ruy de Lugo Viña, se dispuso a interesar de los gobiernos de la América que enviarán sus delegados, con plenos poderes para aprobar esos Estatutos, para lo cual se dieron instrucciones a las misiones diplomáticas de Cuba en cada capital de América y el Sr. Manuel Sanguily, Jefe de la Oficina Panamericana del Ministerio de Estado visitó a las misiones de los países hermanos acreditadas en La Habana, con el expresado fin, habiéndose recibido respuestas favorables de la mayoría de los gobiernos, algunos de los cuales se encuentran aquí representados. Hago Constar así el interés del Gobierno de Cuba porque sean aprobados estos Estatutos, tal como están redactados, en cuyo sentido emito mi voto. Al así hacerlo cumplo con las instrucciones recibidas de mi Gobierno y reitero el interés del mismo porque se afiance, arraigue y fortifique la cooperación intermunicipal y esta Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal dentro del sistema interamericano, de modo que puedan realizarse cabalmente sus objetivos expresados en este Proyecto de Estatutos".

El Sr. Cruz Ayala (Rep. Dominicana) solicita de la Presidencia que se lean los Estatutos, pues aun cuando comparte con el Sr. Scasso la absoluta confianza en los redactores del Proyecto, es lo cierto, que muchos Delegados no han tenido la oportunidad de conocer en detalle las modificaciones que se han introducido

al anterior Proyecto que se había distribuído por la Secretaría.

El Secretario Dr. Morán explica que las únicas modificaciones introducidas consisten en la supresión de todo aquello que hacía de esta Organización parte integrante del sistema interamericano, como un organismo especializado de este tipo, en virtud de las sugestiones hechas y escuchadas por todos de labios de los Excmos. Sres. Quintanilla y Daniels, y el establecimiento, en el Art. 42, de las fuentes de ingresos, para la Organización.

Después de deliberaciones en las que intervinieron el Sr. Hoan (EE. UU. de A.), Cuéllar (Colombia), Cruz Ayala (República Dominicana), Pumarino (Chile), Bruzón (Cuba), Concha (Ecuador), Scasso (Uruguay), se acuerda por unanimidad recesar hasta las 9:30 p.m., a fin de que todos los Delegados puedan conocer el nuevo texto del Proyecto de Estatutos.

9:30 p.m.

Aprobación previa de los Estatutos.

Se reanuda la Sesión bajo la Presidencia del Sr. Herbert Emmerich.

El Sr. Cruz Ayala, de República Dominicana, toma la palabra para decir que debido a la benevolencia de los miembros de la Comisión, la Delegación dominicana ha tenido la oportunidad de leer el proyecto de Estatutos revisado y que por esa razón pueden manifestar que el mismo tiene toda su aprobación.

El Sr. Brin, de Panamá, propone que se considere entonces la moción del Sr. Scasso en el sentido de que los Estatutos sean aprobados por aclamación.

El Sr. Ibarra, de Guatemala, dice que ha estudiado los Estatutos y los encuentra satisfactorios, puesto que unas sugestiones que deseaba hacer la Delegación de Guatemala, ya se habían tenido en cuenta en el nuevo texto; que apoyaba la sugestión de que se considere y apruebe la moción del Sr. Scasso, con una reserva: que es necesaria una ley del Congreso de su país para la ratificación de estos Estatutos, lo que él recomendará a su Gobierno se haga.

El Sr. Emmerich manifiesta que en vista de las señales de aprobación, se aprueban los Estatutos por aclamación.

El Sr. Emmerich aprovecha la oportunidad para congratular a Cuba por el apoyo decidido que ha dado a la Organización hasta la fecha.

El Dr. Morán manifiesta que la contribución de Cuba ha sido complementada por las de Chile, Estados Unidos de América, Haití, Honduras, República Dominicana, Venezuela y de Municipalidades de distintos lugraes de la América y el Canadá.

A continuación el Sr. Emmerich entrega la Presidencia de la sesión al Sr. Brownlow, el que pregunta si ya están listas las resoluciones para ser discutidas.

El Sr. Emmerich contesta que no han sido redactadas porque los nuevos Estatutos afectan a algunas de las resoluciones, pero que se podía informar a la Comisión del contenido de las mismas.

El Secretario, Dr. Morán, lee la resolución del Sr. Hoan sobre Autonomía Municipal.

El Sr. Brin, de Panamá, la apoya y pide sea adoptada por aclamación.

El Sr. McLean, de Canadá, se pronuncia en el mismo sentido.

El Presidente, Sr. Brownlow, pide votación y es aprobada.

El Secretario, Dr. Morán lee el proyecto de resolución de la Delegación de la República Dominicana, respecto al Faro de Colón.

El Sr. Allende, de Chile, apoya la resolución.

El Sr. Brin, de Panamá, pide se apruebe por aclamación.

El Presidente, Sr. Brownlow, somete la resolución a votación y se adopta por aclamación.

Los Delegados de la República Dominicana, señores Cruz Ayala y Alvarez Sánchez, dan las gracias y muestran a los presentes un album descriptivo del progreso de las obras.

El Secretario, Dr. Morán, procedió a dar lectura a una moción presentada por la Delegación de Colombia, sobre intercambio cultural.

El Sr. Cuéllar, de Colombia, explica el alcance de su proyecto, defendiendo también la moción el señor Pineros, de Colombia.

El Presidente, Sr. Brownlow, pide votación para la aprobación en principio de la resolución, la que se aprueba y se pasa a la Comisión de Estilo.

El Secretario, Dr. Morán, lee el Proyecto de Resolución surgida de la Sesión de Trabajo sobre la vivienda.

El Sr. Scasso, de Uruguay, explica cómo han sido refundidas en una, las resoluciones sobre vivienda y planificación.

El Secretario, Dr. Morán, da cuenta de diversos proyectos de resoluciones que se aprueban en su fondo, acordándose enviarlas a la Comisión de Estilo para que las someta a la aprobación del Congreso en la Sesión Plenaria final.

El Sr. Brownlow sugiere que se le dé un voto de confianza a los Ponentes y a la Comisión de Estilo, respecto a las resoluciones adoptadas por las Sesiones Técnicas, lo que se aprueba.

Invitaciones para la IV Reunión.

A continuación el Sr. Brownlow, pasa a tratar sobre la consideración de las invitaciones que se han recibido para la celebración de la próxima reunión del Congreso.

El Dr. Morán anuncia que se han recibido invitaciones de las ciudades de Detroit, San Francisco, Montevideo y Quebec.

El Sr. Brownlow se refiere informalmente a sus conversaciones sobre este asunto con los representantes de las ciudades arriba mencionadas.

El Sr. McLean, de Canadá, habla por la Ciudad de Quebec, explicando sus bondades y ventajas, sus excelentes hoteles, y el agrado con que serían recibidos los Delegados, pero no quiere que sus palabras se estimen como una coacción, sino más bien, como expresión del deseo sincero de contribuir de este modo al progreso de esta Organización.

El Sr. Scasso, de Uruguay, habla sobre la invitación de la Ciudad de Montevideo.

El Dr. Morán habla sobre el costo de un Congreso de esta clase, dando el ejemplo de lo que costó a La Habana la celebración del primero, y a Santiago de Chile, el segundo, cosa que era muy importante se tuviera en cuenta.

El Sr. Emmerich habla a favor del principio de rotación y de aceptar la invitación de la Ciudad de Montevideo y sugirió que el asunto fuera pasado para discutirlo, al Comité Ejecutivo.

El Sr. Brin, de Panamá, también habla a favor de Montevideo y dijo que opinaba que el Congreso podía decidir el asunto en ese momento y si no era posible, referirlo a la Comisión Panamericana.

El Sr. Gutiérrez, de Chile, igualmente hizo elogios de Montevideo y expresó sus deseos de que se celebre el Congreso allí.

El Sr. Emmerich, vuelve a hablar a favor de Montevideo.

El Presidente, Sr. Brownlow, indica que se notifique a la Plenaria del Congreso sobre las invitaciones recibidas, recomendando la aceptación de la invitación de Montevideo. Pide votación y queda aprobado aceptar la invitación de Montevideo.

En seguida se procede a la elección de los funcionarios de la Organización y de acuerdo con lo dispuesto en los Estatutos, quedaron electos los siguientes señores: Presidente: Sr. de-Lesseps S. Morrison, Alcalde de Nueva Orleans; Vice-Presidente: El Alcalde de Montevideo; y Delegado por la Ciudad donde se celebró el anterior Congreso: El Alcalde de Santiago de Chile. Secretario: Dr. Carlos M. Morán.

No habiendo más asuntos de que tratar se levantó la Sesión.

SESIONES TECNICAS

Las Ponencias se repartieron en un folleto impreso en español e inglés, cortesía de P.A.C.H., Chicago, Ill.

Miércoles, 3 de mayo, 10 a.m.

Tema: 1. Relaciones entre los municipios y el gobierno central.
Ponente: Mr. Rowland Egger.

El Presidente del Congreso, señor Louis Brownlow, abrió la sesión, haciendo unos cuantos anuncios pertinentes y cediendo la presidencia al Dr. Augusto Pumarino, Regidor de Valparaíso, Chile, quien presentó al Ponente Sr. Rowland Egger, Profesor de la Universidad de Virginia y unido a estas labores de cooperación intermunicipal desde sus orígenes. Excusó al Ponente corresponsal, Profesor Rafael Xavier, de Río de Janeiro, que se vió imposibilitado de asistir.

El Sr. Egger habló en términos generales sobre su ponencia, no leyéndola totalmente por haberse ya distribuido entre los asistentes al Congreso. Habló de la estructura especial de los Estados Unidos, donde existen 48 sistemas diferentes o distintos de gobierno estatal, lo que hace que las relaciones entre los estados y el gobierno central y los municipios sean muy complicadas.

En forma general glosó su ponencia reduciendo sus palabras a los puntos fundamentales en ella expresados con ejemplos prácticos manifestando que aunque no conocía la estructura de todos los países de América y la forma en que se llevaba a cabo la relación entre los municipios y los niveles gubernamentales superiores, tales como estados, provincias y el Estado, creía que probablemente se encontrarían situaciones similares a las mencionadas por él en su trabajo.

El Sr. Pumarino dió las gracias al Sr. Egger por su interesante trabajo y manifestó que estos problemas se hallaban más o menos iguales en toda la América, refiriéndose especialmente a la situación en su país, Chile, y que siempre se han preocupado por este problema de las relaciones entre los municipios y las esferas superiores gubernamentales. Que en Chile desde 1891 existe la autonomía municipal, que al principio esto debilitó la posición de los municipios por la falta de recursos adecuados pero que leyes

subsiguientes corrigieron este defecto hasta cierto punto, y que en la actualidad hay un tanto por ciento de ingresos municipales que van al Estado y el Estado aporta algo a los municipios pero que en la medida que estas leyes han ido dando mayor autoridad al Estado, y mayores aportes de los ingresos municipales, se ha ido debilitando la autonomía municipal. Que la Constitución de 1925 ya consagra totalmente la autonomía municipal, pero que aún hoy tropiezan con serias dificultades los gobiernos municipales para hacer frente a sus gastos.

El Sr. Pablo Bernal, Alcalde de Medellín hizo uso de la palabra; explicó la situación de su país, y las ventajas y desventajas del actual sistema de autonomía municipal que regía en su país. Habló de los grandes progresos hechos por la Ciudad de Medellín y las dificultades de hacer frente a sus gastos en vista del nivel de los mismos en comparación con el gran aumento tenido en la población y en la preponderancia que aún ejercía en asuntos económicos el gobierno central sobre los gobiernos municipales.

El Sr. Harvey Walker, Profesor de la Universidad del Estado de Ohio y Secretario Tesorero de la "American Political Science Association" (Asociación Americana de Ciencias Políticas), expresó lo siguiente:

"Tengo el propósito de hacer algunas anotaciones y elaborar un poco en relación con la excelente Ponencia del Sr. Rowland Egger. Cuando yo estudiaba Ciencia Política, antes de graduarme, en la Universidad de Kansas, el Profesor C. M. Fasset, ex-Alcalde de Spokane, Washington, nos dijo una vez que los requisitos de buen gobierno en una democracia, se podían reducir a tres: 1. Una buena forma de organización; 2. Funcionarios competentes; y 3. Ciudadanos interesados e informados.

Estos tres principios básicos me han ayudado mucho en el análisis de instituciones gubernamentales y en la enseñanza de estudiantes no graduados. Los gobiernos que carecen de uno de estos elementos, pueden florecer por un tiempo, pero no pueden mantenerse con éxito por períodos largos. Algunas veces uno de esos elementos puede ser deficiente, aunque no se carezca completamente de él. Tal deficiencia reduce el promedio de valor de los servicios que se prestan a los ciudadanos, y solo cuando se suple la deficiencia es que el gobierno puede realizar sus más altos propósitos".

"En el gobierno municipal, dado que la forma depende tanto de la acción de autoridades superiores, es esencial que esta fuente sienta simpatía por los objetivos y propósitos que deben realizar los funcionarios de la ciudad. En los Estados Unidos comenzamos como un país agrícola".

"Los gobiernos estatales, que según nos ha dicho el Dr. Egger, controlan la forma y los poderes de los gobiernos municipales en este país, tenían su organización estabilizada en los comienzos del siglo XIX. Los cuerpos legislativos de los estados, reflejaban el carácter agrario de la población, entonces predominante. En las constituciones de nuestros estados estaba escrito como debían escogerse los miembros de estos Cuerpos Legislativos y se hacía difícil de cambiar. Con el rápido progreso de nuestro país en la última mitad del siglo XIX y en la primera del XX, nuestra población se hizo más urbana que rural en su carácter principal, pero no ocurrieron los cambios correspondientes en la proporción de representantes de las ciudades en esos cuerpos. En parte por la dificultad de modificar cons-

tituciones y también por un apego emocional a las antiguas y probadas instituciones gubernamentales, no se produjeron las modificaciones que debieron introducirse en los modos de escoger los legisladores, para que se ajustaran al crecimiento de las comunidades urbanas. Como resultado, tenemos hoy, en la mayoría de nuestros estados, poblaciones predominentemente urbanas y cuerpos legislativos en los que predomina la representación rural".

"Mucho se ha dicho en esta conferencia acerca de lo deseable que es la autonomía para las ciudades".

"Ella puede otorgarse por los cuerpos legislativos de los Estados o por el pueblo en virtud de provisiones de las constituciones de los estados. En los casos de silencio constitucional, las ciudades acostumbran acudir a los cuerpos legislativos del Estado en solicitud de autorización para gobernar sus asuntos propios. Como esos cuerpos son predominamente rurales en su carácter, existe poca simpatía por los problemas de los funcionarios locales".

"Hemos encontrado que en los Estados Unidos la autonomía municipal puede obtenerse sólo en pequeñas dosis y sólo cuando los municipios demuestran ante una legislatura indiferente, que son merecedores de la garantía y confianza que tal autonomía implica".

"En democracia se trabaja sobre el principio general de que cada ciudadano debe ser oído por igual en el manejo de nuestros asuntos públicos. Algunos de nuestros estados han reducido algo la estricta aplicación de este principio democrático, a través de pruebas de instrucción".

"Haciendo esto le han dado enfática importancia a otro principio, o sea, que solo los ciudadanos educados y capaces de informarse por sí de los méritos y deficiencias de los proyectos públicos, deben ser los calificados para participar en la decisión de los asuntos de este carácter. Limitemos o no nuestra representación, sin duda no estamos interesados en dar representación en una democracia a ningún otro interés que no sea el pueblo. Quizás deseémos limitarla a la gente inteligente, pero ciertamente no deseamos dar representación a la riqueza, o la propiedad, o la tierra, como tales".

"Menciono estas cosas a ustedes porque muchos de vuestros países son todavía agrarios en su carácter predominante. Ustedes están experimentando ahora el cambio que ocurrió en nuestro país, el traslado de grandes poblaciones, de las áreas rurales a las urbanas. Es importante recordar según este proceso continúa y se acelera, que las modificaciones constitucionales para asegurar a las gentes de las ciudades una vez proporcionada a su fuerza numérica, deben acompañar a la urbanización, una vez que la urbanización está completada, será muy difícil de hacer estas modificaciones si no se han hecho antes."

"Esto subraya la necesidad de que se conserven las constituciones flexibles en condiciones de enfrentar las situaciones cambiantes. Deben ser fáciles de modificar".

"La dificultad en esto coloca un poder indebido en las manos de las minorías. También es necesario que ejerzamos una vigilancia eterna de modo de ver que sea el pueblo el que esté representado, más bien que intereses especiales, tales como la propiedad. Y finalmente, es necesario que se informe al pueblo de lo que sus gobiernos están haciendo de modo que ellos puedan juzgar inteligentemente

acerca de la fidelidad y adecuación de la administración de sus funcionarios públicos. Debemos tener fé en la democracia porque en estas condiciones el pueblo puede corregir cualquier error que encuentre, por medios constitucionales, mejor que por revoluciones".

"A fin de hacer estas cosas, debemos ser más que hombres de buena voluntad dedicados al servicio de nuestros semejantes. Debemos estudiar y aprender las prácticas mejores. Debemos educar nuestros pueblos a querer lo mejor y entonces debemos dárselo. Solamente a través de tal proceso podemos alzar el nivel de la conciencia pública de los que viven en nuestros países y en nuestras ciudades".

Después habló el Sr. José D. Bazán, Alcalde Municipal de Colón, República de Panamá, quien explicó ampliamente la situación en su país, donde existe la autonomía municipal consagrada en la Constitución, desde 1945. También se refirió a 2 leyes que reglamentan la autonomía y las relaciones entre los municipios y el estado, la distribución de gastos e ingresos; sobre el Código de Administración, el decreto ley que reglamenta el régimen municipal y sobre la forma en que se preparan los presupuestos municipales y se distribuyen los gastos, afirmando que Panamá ha hecho grandes progresos en esto de las relaciones municipales-estatales.

No habiendo otra solicitud para hacer uso de la palabra, se levantó la sesión, a fin de proceder a redactar las conclusiones, que aparecen en el Acta Final.

Tema: 2. *"La Vivienda y los Municipios". Ponente General: señor Herbert Emmerich, (EE. UU. de A.)*

Abrió la Sesión el Presidente del Congreso, Sr. Louis Brownlow, quien hizo unos cuantos anuncios, explicando a la vez que la ausencia del Dr. Morán, Secretario del Congreso, que algunos de los Delegados habían ya notado, se debía a que aprovechando el bondadoso ofrecimiento de los Excmos. Señores Luis Quintanilla y Paul C .Daniels de la Organización de los Estados Americanos y del señor Paul R. Kelbaugh, de la Unión Panamericana, estaba trabajando con ellos en la revisión del proyecto de nuevos Estatutos para la Organización. Inmediatamente el Sr. Brownlow cedió la Presidencia al Sr. Federico Ponce, Presidente del Concejo Municipal de Caracas, Venezuela.

El Sr. Ponce presentó al Ponente General del Tema a tratarse en esta Sesión, Sr. Herbert Emmerich, Presidente del Comité Americano de Cooperación Municipal Internacional y Director del "Public Administration Clearing House" de Chicago y Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, cuya Ponencia había sido ya repartida en inglés y español a todos los Delegados.

Al hacer uso de la palabra el señor Emmerich expresó su agradecimiento por el honor que representaba haber sido escogido para desarrollar este Tema ante el Congreso y para lamentar que el Ponente Corresponsal, su buen amigo Ricardo González Cortés, de Chile, a quien oportunamente le remitió un ejemplar de su trabajo, no hubiera podido venir a esta reunión.

Habla de la existente escasez de viviendas como un problema mundial, pues en ninguna parte hay número adecuado de ellas, modernas, seguras y salubres, para satisfacer las necesidades crecientes de la población. Se refiere a la necesidad de tener un programa de demostración, que es el primer paso en el desarrollo de méto-

dos y técnicas de construcción; en este programa de demostración debe haber información sobre la planeación, costos y métodos de administrar los proyectos, explicando las diferentes fases de este programa. Habla de la experiencia de los Estados Unidos en esta cuestión de la vivienda, en términos generales; del estudio de la demanda y la oferta; las estadísticas necesarias sobre población total, número de familias, promedio de aumento de población, etc., y también de la capacidad de pago de la vivienda. Trata de las viviendas financiadas por iniciativa privada y de ayuda estatal o pública y especialmente de las viviendas de bajo alquiler y bajo costo, de las técnicas y modelos de construcción, haciendo como es natural, referencia a los Estados Unidos y reconociendo que la situación es diferente en otros países, por razón de su clima, etc. Después hace una explicación de cuál sería la experiencia de un habitante del planeta Marte que viniera a la Tierra para estudiar este asunto de las viviendas, ajustando los puntos de vista de su Ponencia a tal visitante de Marte. Señala la necesidad de la cooperación de la empresa privada con la pública y de los municipios con el Gobierno Nacional para lograr estos fines de viviendas adecuadas, sometiendo a la consideración de los Delegados las conclusiones contenidas al final de su trabajo.

El Sr. Emmerich se refirió a una valiosa contribución recibida de la Liga Municipal Dominicana, firmada por el Ingeniero Bienvenido Martínez Brea y el Dr. Virgilio Heepelman, Miembros del Consejo Administrativo del Distrito de Santo Domingo, que por haber llegado tarde no pudo incluirse en el folleto repartido y que por su extensión no puede leerse en esta oportunidad a pesar de los valiosos datos históricos y los relatos de experiencia que contiene, en cuyo trabajo sus autores deducen las siguientes conclusiones: "A) El problema de la vivienda no es característico de los municipios en decadencia o sin vitalidad económica, sino en aquellos que ostentan pujanza en todos los órdenes y cuentan con una población fija o flotante de importancia, por causa de su misma actividad económico social y de sus variados atractivos. B) Nada es comparable, por su magnitud y consecuencias en todos los órdenes, político, social, económico, humano, al problema de la vivienda en los tiempos modernos. C) En su resolución es de gran utilidad la iniciativa privada, estimulada por los poderes municipales y nacionales. D) El problema de la vivienda, aún cuando presenta en el Siglo XX su máximo grado de agudez, es tan viejo como los grandes núcleos humanos, y es fruto, esencialmente, de la exagerada aglomeración de habitantes en determinados puntos de la Tierra. E) La más eficaz intervención, en la acción y función de los municipios se fundamenta en la más estrecha, firme y técnica coodinación de sus programas de urbanización con el programa y planes del Estado. Ejemplo concreto: la República Dominicana".

Igualmente, expresa el Sr. Emmerich, la Delegación de la Municipalidad de Caracas ha traído a esta reunión un valioso trabajo como contribución al estudio del problema de la vivienda, y una película explicativa del desenvolvimiento de las obras de la Avenida Bolívar, que será exhibida el día 5, a las 11:00 a.m. Como conclusiones del trabajo, la Delegación de la Municipalidad de Caracas expresa: "1) Siendo el problema de la vivienda en líneas generales homogéneo en casi todas las Capitales

de la América Latina, debido al éxodo de las masas rurales hacia las grandes urbes, ya con la esperanza de mejorar el standard de vida, o bien ilusionados con que la centralización de las industrias, comercio y todos aquellos adelantos que traen consigo la inversión y movilización de los grandes capitales, han hecho, que a pesar del ritmo acelerado con que se han desenvuelto las construcciones, no haya mejorado el agudo problema de la vivienda. 2) En nuestro país que hace años era más que todo esencialmente agrícola y pecuario, la mayoría del interior de la República, abandonó la siembra y la cría, atraída por el aliciente del progreso urbano; dejando los campos desolados y no aptos para la readaptación de nuestro escaso material humano, ni de la corriente inmigratoria de los desplazados del viejo Continente en los últimos años, no permitiendo que los primeros vuelvan por los caminos andados, ni que los segundos cumplan con el cometido para el cual fueron traídos a estas tierras. 3) Además de la escasez de viviendas, el problema se ha complicado más aún por lo inadecuado e insalubre de las construcciones en los cerros y hondonadas que circundan el casco de la Ciudad, ya que los servicios públicos resultan a un costo sumamente elevado, y en muchos casos imposible de realizarse por el municipio; por otra parte, veinte años atrás, no se previó el aumento que de manera vertiginosa ha tenido la población; y los municipios lamentablemente no conservaron sus egidos, no habiendo en la actualidad terrenos propios suficientes donde el municipio pueda construir casas de tipo más económico para alojar a esa numerosa población carente de los medios esenciales de la vida actual. 4) El balance de la última conflagración mundial, ha contribuído en mucho a la lenta construcción de la vivienda individual por parte de las clases más necesitadas, pues la restricción en la importación de los materiales de construcción, así como la adquisición de los mismos, hizo elevar sus precios a un nivel tan alto que era completamente imposible obtenerlos".

Hablaron dos Delegados de Chile, los señores Augusto Pumarino y Abel Gutiérrez. El primero hizo un recuento de lo que se había hecho en Chile con respecto a este problema a partir del año 1920, habiéndose hecho mucho, pero que lo cierto es que los municipios chilenos no tienen ni los recursos ni el capital con que acometer obras de vivienda en gran escala. El Sr. Gutiérrez celebró el trabajo del Sr. Emmerich y habló sobre los proyectos ya efectuados en parte en Chile y sobre lo que se estaba haciendo, en especial en cuanto a viviendas de bajo costo. Relató sucintamente la labor realizada en este sentido por los Congreso Panamericanos de Arquitectos, el VII de los cuales acaba de celebrarse en La Habana. Refiere igualmente el apoyo prestado por los Bancos chilenos y a la labor realizada por la Señora de González Videla.

El Sr. Juan Scasso, de Montevideo, también participó en la discusión del tema, felicitando al Sr. Emmerich por el mismo, pero expresando que no está completamente de acuerdo con las conclusiones a que llega, pues estima que deben ser más efectivas y valientes de modo que se haga algo útil que remedie esta situación de falta de viviendas suficientes y adecuadas, modernas, salubres y seguras. Habla del gran progreso efectuado en su país en este asunto de la vivienda, de las leyes que existen para garantizar la inversión de capitales en estos asun-

tos y sugiere que una Sub-Comisión redacte las conclusiones que habrán de salir como resultado de esta Sesión.

La Alcaldesa de San Juan, Puerto Rico, Felisa Rincón de Gautier, hace un relato de la situación de este problema en su Isla y señala que se ha prestado mayor atención a los vecinos que han de habitar las viviendas, que a quienes las construyen.

El Sr. Mendoza, de Cuba, hace incapie sobre el aspecto de la Ponencia del Sr. Emmerich, relativo a las demostraciones y se refiere a lo resuelto en este aspecto por el último Congreso Panamericano de Arquitectos celebrado en La Habana, sugiriendo la conveniencia de que en los próximos Congresos Interamericanos de Municipios se trate de esta cuestión de la vivienda y se hagan amplias exposiciones con planos y fotografías.

Con la manifestación del Sr. Emmerich de que aceptaría cualquier sugestión y que a esè fin se reuniría con los demás Delegados interesados en el tipo de conclusiones que habría de ser sometido a la Sesión Plenaria General, para redactar las mismas, se levantó la sesión.

Jueves, 4 de mayo, 10:00 a.m.

Tema: 3. *Planeación Municipal. Ponente General*: *Sr. Walter H. Blucher, (EE. UU. de A.)*

Abrió la Sesión el Presidente del Congreso, Sr. Louis Brownlow, haciendo varios anuncios, entre ellos el de que la próxima sesión de la Comisión Panamericana, Delegados de Gobiernos Nacionales y Jefes de Delegaciones, para considerar el proyecto de Estatutos que ya ha sido revisado con el valioso aporte de los Excmos. Señores Luis Quintanilla y Paul C. Daniels, y del Sr. Paul R. Kelbaugh, de la Unión Panamericana, se celebrará en el día de hoy a las 3:30 p.m. y que los Delegados acreditados, según el informe de la Comisión de Credenciales, serán dados a conocer por el Sr. John J. Kennedy, por delegación del Secretario, Dr. Morán.

Una vez terminada la lectura de la relación de Delegados, el señor Brownlow cede la Presidencia al Arquitecto Sr. Juan Scasso, de Montevideo, Uruguay.

El Sr. Scasso al asumir la Presidencia, presenta al Sr. Walter H. Blucher, Director Ejecutivo de la "American Society of Planning Officials", Ponente del Tema que se va a tratar en esta Sesión y viejo amigo, desde el II Congreso Interamericano de Municipios celebrado en Chile.

El Sr. Blucher agradece las amables palabras del Sr. Scasso y lamenta que un buen amigo suyo de Caracas, el Ingeniero Dr. Francisco Carrillo Batalla, que había sido seleccionado como Ponente Corresponsal de este Tema, no se encuentre presente.

Dice Mr. Blucher, que su trabajo ha sido entregado a los delegados en español e inglés y que por tanto no va a leerlo íntegramente, sino glosarlo en forma general. Explica la situación en cuanto a las agencias de planeación municipal en los Estados Unidos, haciendo especial referencia a la Comisión de Planeación de la Ciudad de New York, que tiene un presupuesto de gastos para este año de un millón de dólares. Que muchas otras ciudades incluyen en sus presupuestos cientos de miles de dólares para sus gastos de planeación. Que hay varias universidades que ofrecen cursos y conceden títulos sobre planeación municipal, para preparar proyectistas expertos en esta materia.

Continúa explicando que hay necesidad de personal y dinero para llevar a cabo una planeación adecuada. La planeación trae beneficios que no se pueden contar en términos de dinero. A medida que se dan cuenta los municipios de la importancia de la planeación municipal, esto se ha vuelto punto político controversial. En los Estados Unidos el desarrollo de la planeación municipal y su respaldo político ha sido acompañado por un respaldo popular y por la formación de grupos cívicos para fomentar la misma.

Habla sobre el desarrollo de la planeación en los Estados Unidos y especialmente del "Housing Act" (Ley de Viviendas) de 1949. Cómo esta Ley opera asignando fondos a las ciudades para la construcción de viviendas y subsidios para la reconstrucción a través de la empresa privada. Celebra la ayuda prestada por el Gobierno Federal. Después demuestra a grandes rasgos lo que han hecho diferentes comunidades en el sentido de planeación y los proyectos llevados a cabo en diferentes ciudades. Termina diciendo que comprende que la manera de hacer frente a este asunto de la planificación en los Estados Unidos, no es quizás aplicable a otros países, pero cree que algunos de los problemas que se han presentado son iguales en otros países. Se refiere al gran proyecto que se está llevando a cabo en Puerto Rico, de casas de un costo tan bajo que a muchos constructores en los Estados Unidos les ha parecido imposible. Para concluir, hace una recomendación general de que los gobiernos nacionales de la América ayuden aún más a sus municipios en el desarrollo del programa de planeación y en qué debe consistir dicha ayuda, señalando que esto se encuentra ampliamente expresado en las Recomendaciones Generales de su trabajo.

Habla el Sr. Scasso, para decir cuán interesante ha sido el trabajo del Sr. Blucher, pero que repite lo que dijo en la sesión en que se trató de la vivienda; de que había que hacer algo efectivo, alguna recomendación o resolución efectiva, y que este asunto de la planeación estaba tan íntimamente ligado al de la vivienda, que sugería una resolución general que pudiera cubrir ampliamente los puntos de vista expresados allá y aquí.

El debate entonces, a pesar de estarse tratando el asunto de planeación municipal, derivó más hacia el asunto de las viviendas, tomando parte los Delegados de Puerto Rico, República Dominicana, El Salvador y Guatemala, cada uno de los cuales fué expresando lo que se había efectuado en sus respectivos países en el asunto de la planeación municipal en relación con la construcción de viviendas adecuadas, salubres y seguras. Se habló extensamente del sistema dual en Puerto Rico, en que se le da al interesado la tierra con las condiciones mínimas de higiene y se le deja construir o trasladar su casa de secciones insalubres al nuevo lugar; y del plan en que el gobierno pone el material y la maquinaria, y el interesado ayuda a fabricar su propia casa, moderna, fuerte y salubre, a un costo reducidísimo, que va pagando en pequeños plazos. La Señora Felisa Rincón de Gautier, Alcaldesa de San Juan, Puerto Rico, explicó lo satisfactorio que había resultado este plan dual en Puerto Rico y dijo que valía la pena copiarlo en otros lugares.

Los Delegados de la República Dominicana y de Guatemala, también explicaron lo que se había hecho en sus países, sobre todo por iniciativa

privada, y en Guatemala, con ayuda de las autoridades, permitiendo a los interesados construir sus propias casas.

El Delegado de El Salvador preguntó, cuál era el standard mínimo de seguridad y salubridad que había en los planes de fomento de viviendas baratas en Puerto Rico y en Guatemala, lo que explicaron los Delegados de dichos países. Entonces explicó que en El Salvador habían empresas privadas que estaban llevando a cabo la construcción de viviendas de bajo costo bajo un plan de pagos parciales. El Delegado de Guatemala explicó que en el plan puesto en práctica en su país el municipio tenía un control de las construcciones que hacían los interesados por su propia cuenta y con sus propias manos, proporcionándoles los terrenos gratuitamente, y que además de tener el mínimo de condiciones sanitarias y de seguridad, no se permitía construir lo que se llama bajareque. Hablaron también sobre este problema los Delegados del Ecuador y del Brasil, el primero para decir que felicitaba a Puerto Rico por su gran proyecto de casas de bajo costo y el segundo para explicar, los amplios proyectos de planeación que se llevan a cabo en su país, con la ayuda del gobierno central.

S. E. el Embajador Quintanilla, que se encontraba presente en la sesión, tomó parte en el debate, no para votar ni oponerse a nada de lo dicho, pero sí para decir cuán interesante había sido todo lo que había oído sobre dar oportunidades a las personas de pequeños recursos para hacer sus propias casas, con el mínimo de requisitos de higiene y de seguridad, con su propio material de construcción y mano de obra, según habían manifestado los Delegados de Guatemala y Puerto Rico, y habló de las casas construidas de adobe por los indios en su país, y lo fuerte que eran, y que quizás sería conveniente que el Congreso adoptase alguna resolución en que recomendara que los países ayudaran a sus ciudadanos a construir sus propias casas en alguna forma parecida a lo que se había explicado en esta interesante sesión.

El Representante del Ecuador, señor Concha, felicita al Embajador Quintanilla por su interesante charla y sugestión, manifestando que a él le parecía aceptable esta admirable sugestión.

El Delegado de Venezuela, Sr. Zagarzazu, manifiesta que ha encontrado muy atinadas las sugestiones hechas por diferentes Delegados en esta sesión y que quisiera que en el subcomité que se va a nombrar para redactar la resolución o recomendación que habrá de salir de esta sesión de Trabajo que habrá de ser presentada a la plenaria del Congreso, debe agregarse algo respecto a adoptar medidas para evitar la erosión y para disponer reforestación para conservar las áreas verdes de las ciudades, tal como se está haciendo en Venezuela. Es decir, que se adopten medidas para regular el problema de la reforestación en las ciudades.

El Delegado del Brasil también habló a favor de esta moción, expresando que en su país se habían adoptado medidas adecuadas en ese sentido. Puesta a votación, se acordó, después de lo cual se levantó la Sesión, cuyas conclusiones aparecen en el Acta Final.

Viernes, 5 de mayo, 10:00 a.m.

Tema: 4. *Sugestiones para la solución de los problemas del tránsito en las ciudades. Ponente General*: *J. Standard Baker* (*EE. UU. de A.*)

Abre la Sesión el Sr. Brownlow, que hace los anuncios de rigor y cede la Presidencia al Sr. George C. McLean, Alcalde de Boniface, Manitoba, Canada.

El Sr. McLean manifiesta que para él es un gran honor y placer actuar de Presidente en esa sesión. Que en el Canadá se han dado perfecta cuenta de la importancia de este Congreso y por eso enviaron a sus observadores a tomar parte en él. Que los problemas del tráfico, de que se va a tratar en esta sesión, preocupan grandemente a las ciudades canadienses, como ocurre en todas las demás ciudades, y que se iba a tener el placer de oír a uno de los hombres con más experiencia en estos asuntos del tráfico, el Sr. Baker, Profesor con 28 años de experiencia en la materia.

El Sr. Baker se refiere en términos generales a los grandes problemas que el tráfico ha traído a todas las ciudades de América y la necesidad de su regulación y que haciendo uso de su gran experiencia en este tema, ha preparado una Ponencia de la cual se han repartido copias a todos, y que aunque no va a leerla íntegramente, sí va a referirse a las partes más importantes de la misma.

Agrega, que en su trabajo no intentará discutir en detalle los problemas de tránsito peculiares a tantas ciudades del Hemisferio Occidental, limitándose a considerar los aspectos que parecen ser comunes a un gran número de ciudades, y después llegar a conclusiones que puedan ser de utilidad general.

Dice que el problema consta de dos aspectos principales: 1), el movimiento de vehículos que conducen personas y carga; 2), el estacionamiento de vehículos que no están en movimiento.

El problema del estacionamiento es serio, pues mientras mayor sea el uso de las calles para estacionamiento de vehículos, menor será el área disponible para el movimiento del tránsito. Y en cuanto al movimiento, el problema se reduce a obtener un término medio entre la velocidad o fluidez del tránsito y los accidentes.

Entra en consideraciones sobre los accidentes y dice que para evitarlos sería necesario prohibir todo movimiento, cosa que no es posible, por lo que hay que establecer un balance entre los dos extremos.

Las estadísticas, solas, dice, no bastan para mejorar las condiciones del tránsito; hay que estudiar y mejorar todos los factores que componen el sistema de transporte, es decir: 1) los caminos; 2) los vehículos; y 3) los conductores y peatones.

Además, agrega, hay que estudiar y anotar dónde ocurren los accidentes y por qué, y cuándo y cómo la congestión del tránsito causa demoras en su movimiento. Para efectuar medidas adecuadas se necesita: 1) un programa definitivo de planeación a largo alcance; 2) dinero; y 3) nuevas normas de conducta y de actitud de parte de los que usan las calles y carreteras y de los funcionarios públicos encargados del tránsito.

Entra en consideraciones respecto al uso de las carreteras y calles y presenta ciertas cifras respecto a la situación en los Estados Unidos. Dice que en los Estados Unidos generalmente, en las calles y carreteras no hay más que vehículos de motor, dándose cuenta de que en la América Latina el problema es más serio, por existir aún muchos carros de tracción animal, carretillas y bicicletas. Habla de la planeación municipal en asuntos del tránsito, uso de las calles, estacionamiento, etc., ya que las ciudades modernas en el pasado se han desarrollado verticalmente con miras a cubrir un área pequeña,

mientras hoy, con el uso de los automóviles, las ciudades se han descentralizado, pero que al concentrarse todas las actividades en un espacio relativamente pequeño, la congestión se vuelve intolerable. Habla de la necesidad de establecer rutas de tránsito continuo, espacios para estacionamiento fuera de los centros comerciales, pero lo suficientemente cercanos y al margen de la calle para los motoristas que acuden a tiendas, fábricas, teatros, etc.

Recomienda que las calles deben tener un número par de carrileras o "lanes" para el tránsito activo, o sean dos o cuatro, siendo las de una o tres, peligrosas y anti-económicas. Todo esto debe ser objeto de adecuada planeación.

Después trata sobre la ingeniería de tránsito. Dice el Sr. Baker, que el problema de uso adecuado y en la mejor forma posible de las calles, debo estar bajo el control de una agencia especializada tal como es la oficina de ingeniería de tránsito. Explica cómo existe tal oficina en casi todas las grandes ciudades norteamericanas y cuáles deben ser las funciones del ingeniero de tránsito, las que ha relacionado ampliamente en el trabajo que está glosando.

Después trata de los vehículos en sí y el hecho de que en los Estados Unidos, los vehículos defectuosos constituyen un 9% de las causas de los accidentes, de modo que debe haber una adecuada inspección de los vehículos por el municipio, es decir, su tamaño, sus frenos, sus luces, etc. Es preferible que esta tarea la hagan los Estados, pero también los municipios deben regularlos en forma que no sea incompatible con lo reglamentado por el Estado.

Continúa explicando que el elemento humano es el causante de la mayoría de los accidentes —un 78% en los Estados Unidos— y éste es el más importante de los problemas de tránsito. Por ende, deben haber reglamentos adecuados de tránsito, para controlar al público. Por ejemplo: 1) las reglas de tránsito municipales deben suplementar las estatales y no diferir de ellas; 2) la reglamentación local debe ser uniforme, para evitar confusiones de personas de otros lugares; 3) las reglas locales se deben identificar con claridad mediante señales adecuadas; 4) las reglas deben ser aplicables, es decir, que no sean aplicadas solamente bajo ciertas circunstancias; y lo que es muy esencial: 5) los reglamentos de tránsito deben estar redactados en lenguaje sencillo, para que el público los pueda entender y deben ser impresos y puestos al alcance de todos.

Habló el Sr. Baker, de la forma de aplicar los reglamentos de tránsito y disponer de castigos adecuados, los que para ser eficientes, deben ser por lo menos diez veces mayor para accidentes en los que haya heridos o muertos. Se refiere a las licencias para conducir vehículos, las que deben ser otorgadas por el Estado y no por el Municipio y trata especialmente de la necesidad de supervisar y fijar reglas para los peatones, sujetándolos a señales, igual que a los conductores de vehículos. La educación o adiestramiento de los conductores de vehículos es cosa de gran importancia y si el Estado no supervisa las llamadas Escuelas de Tránsito, el Municipio debe hacerlo. Debe haber coordinación entre todas las agencias que tienen que ver con el tránsito, para que los resultados sean buenos. Los ingenieros de tránsito, la policía, los maestros y otras organizaciones públicas y privadas, incluyendo a dueños de flotas de vehículos, asociaciones de automovilistas, etc., deben aunar sus esfuerzos para mejorar la situación.

Trata del adiestramiento profesional para la preparación de los llamados ingenieros de tránsito, manifestando que en la Universidad "Northwestern" hay un Instituto de Tránsito; un Buró de Tránsito, en la Universidad de Yale, con cursos de ingeniería de tránsito y en la Universidad de New York, hay un Centro de Adiestramiento sobre la Seguridad, con cursos sobre los diferentes aspectos del control del tránsito. También hay muchas escuelas regionales para el mejoramiento de los conocimientos sobre esta interesante materia.

Dice el Sr. Baker, que ha llegado a ocho conclusiones que ha llamado: "sugestiones para controlar el problema del tránsito en las ciudades" o sean:

1. Una organización de ingeniería de tránsito;

2. Una división del tránsito en el Departamento de la Policía;

3. Una serie de disposiciones especiales que cubran el aspecto judicial de casos motivados por violaciones a las leyes del tránsito;

4. Un programa escolar de adiestramiento de peatones y conductores de vehículos;

5. Una bien definida reglamentación del tránsito;

6. Un requisito, mediante el cual todos los establecimientos nuevos tengan que proveer áreas de estacionamiento al margen de las calles, para los vehículos.

7. Un plan municipal de largo alcance sobre el establecimiento de arterias principales; y

8. Una organización especial que coordine los esfuerzos públicos y privados encaminados a mejorar la situación del tránsito y que mantenga al público informado.

El Sr. McLean opina que se debe felicitar al señor Baker por su muy interesante y práctico trabajo y pide a los Delegados que hagan las preguntas que estimen pertinentes.

El Sr. Abel Gutiérrez, de Chile, hace uso de la palabra para felicitar al Sr. Baker por su admirable trabajo, dice que ese mismo problema se confronta en su país y se está tratando de solucionar, aunque no con medidas tan generales como las desarrolladas en este país, y explica que la palabra tráfico debe ser sustituida por tránsito, pues tráfico significa algo enteramente diferente.

A continuación hace uso de la palabra el Sr .José Cuéllar, de Colombia, el que dice que el admirable informe del Sr. Baker, viene a presentar la situación del tránsito tal como existe en casi todas las ciudades de la América Latina, haciendo referencia al muy completo estudio que se ha hecho de esto en Bogotá, dando resultado a la reciente adopción de un reglamento de tránsito que él considera muy completo y que consiste de más de 300 artículos. Continúa explicando que este reglamento es municipal, pues el Estado es el que reglamenta el uso de las carreteras, que en el mismo se han estudiado todos los aspectos del tránsito, los accidentes y sus causas, habiéndose dispuesto severas penalidades por las violacione que de él se hagan, en cuanto a velocidad, reglas de conducir vehículos, etc. Que las estadísticas han demostrado que los accidentes en su país se descomponen en esta forma: Uso indebido de bebidas alcohólicas, 40%; exceso de velocidad, 30%; falta de experiencia en el manejo de vehículos, 15%; y, otras causas, 15%. Que se ha utilizado con éxito el "detector" de alcohol y otros métodos

científicos modernos y que cree que se ha dado un gran paso de avance en esta regulación del tránsito en Bogotá. Agrega, que lamenta no tener más ejemplares de este moderno reglamento de tránsito, pero que en su oportunidad le será enviado a los Miembros del Congreso.

No habiendo más preguntas o sugerencias, se levantó la sesión, para que se redactaran las conclusiones, que aparecen en el Acta Final.

SESIONES PLENARIAS

Martes, 2 de mayo, 10:00 a.m.

Sesión Plenaria de Apertura.

Se celebró la Sesión Plenaria de Apertura de la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios en el McAlister Auditorium de la Universidad de Tulane, bajo la Presidencia de S. E. Gabriel González Videla, Presidente de Chile.

El Presidente de la Universidad de Tulane, Dr. Rufus Harris hizo la introducción, haciendo entrega de la Presidencia al Sr. C. C. Walther, Presidente de la Cámara de Comercio de New Orleans y del Comité Local Organizador. El Sr. Walther hizo la presentación de los representantes de las diferentes naciones, Presidentes de las Delegaciones y otros concurrentes que se hallaban en el estrado, presentándolos uno a uno, pronunciando palabras de bienvenida. Presentó al Sr. Louis Brownlow, Director General de la C.P.C.I., que actuaba como Presidente del Congreso. El señor Brownlow manifestó que como había sido imposible al Dr. Antonio Beruff Mendieta, Presidente de la Organización asistir al Congreso, él por razón de su cargo debía asumir la Presidencia. Dijo que el Congreso se veía honrado con la presencia del Honorable Sr. Gabriel González Videla, Presidente de la República de Chile. Pronunció unas palabras sobre el origen y organización de la cooperación intermunicipal y del gran interés demostrado por la República de Chile, cuya participación siempre ha sido notable, desde su inicio; que el Arq. Sr. Ricardo González Cortés, Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo, ha sido un valioso e incansable luchador en nuestras labores y que en las diversas reuniones en La Habana del Comité Ejecutivo, fué sustituído por el Excmo. Sr. Don Emilio Edwards Bello, Embajador de la República de Chile, ante el Gobierno de Cuba. Explica que este Congreso rinde tributo a la Ciudad de Nueva Orleans por su hospitalidad y habla de la casualidad de estar reunido en la misma, cuando su Alcalde, un joven y destacado líder en las relaciones intermunicipales, toma posesión para un segundo período alcaldicio. A continuación ruega al Alcalde deLesseps S. Morrison, que haga la presentación del Señor Presidente de Chile.

Palabras del Sr. Morrison.

Algo magnífico y distinto ha sucedido en nuestra época. La dirección de la orientación del mundo ha cambiado de Europa a la América. Antes mirábamos hacia ella, como guía en la diplomacia, las ciencias y la organización social. Hoy, ella mira hacia nosotros.

Ha visto, quizás mejor que nosotros las inmensas posibilidades de nuestros dos ricos continentes; las perspectivas de desarrollo que literalmente conmueven nuestra imaginación; los simples

hechos de carácter geográfico, económico y social, que claman por la solidaridad hemisférica.

Sin que lo hayamos buscado, sin quererlo, por razón de nuestra fortaleza natural, la América es la orientadora del mundo libre. La interrogación queda abierta: ¿En qué dirección debemos orientar?

Hemos visto a través de la Historia que la pérdida de la libertad personal está precedida por el decaimiento o colapso del gobierno local. Es por tanto esencial que aún cuando los gobiernos estatales y federales adopten las medidas más fuertes para resolver los grandes problemas, no destruyan ni debiliten seriamente la verdadera columna vertebral de la democracia — el gobierno local—.

Como funcionarios municipales nos corresponde particularmente la tarea de asegurar que esto no suceda. Quizás el mejor medio para ello sea, mantener nuestra propia casa en orden... ver que el orden, la justicia y los servicios estén tan perfeccionados en la localidad, que de por sí sean los más fuertes argumentos contra tales cambios.

Con este pensamiento, nosotros los de Nueva Orleans damos a ustedes la bienvenida a este Congreso, con la sincera esperanza de que en el mismo se logrará una contribución perdurable hacia tal finalidad. Damos la bienvenida en particular a nuestro amigo y encantador buen vecino de Chile, el Presidente Sr. Gabriel González Videla, que nos proporciona el placer de encontrarse en nuestra ciudad y con nosotros en esta plataforma como huésped de honor.

Ciertamente es Nueva Orleans un lugar apropiado para un Congreso Interamericano. Su misma apariencia recuerda el hogar a mucho de nuestros huéspedes. Nuestra Casa Internacional, está dedicada a propósitos de paz, comercio y entendimiento mundiales. El Gobierno de la Ciudad, la Cámara de Comercio, el Consejo de Comisionados del Puerto y el Mercado de Comercio Internacional, están desempeñando papeles vitales en el mejoramiento de los lazos de amistad con las otras ciudades y naciones del hemisferio.

Consideramos que conocer a otra persona, equivale a simpatizar con ella.

Mucho de nuestros líderes cívicos han visitado vuestras comunidades y han regresado al hogar sintiendo cálido afecto por vosotros y por vuestros pueblos.

Personalmente tengo el orgullo de que se me conozca como el Alcalde de los EE. UU. de A. que más ha viajado, y cuento entre mis más queridos amigos líderes cívicos y municipales, de todas las otras naciones de nuestro hemisferio.

El tremendo progreso logrado por las ciudades de Latino América hacia el Sur y de Canadá hacia el Norte, nos ha impresionado a nosotros los de Nueva Orleans. Hemos aprendido mucho acerca de vuestros problemas y de las medidas adoptadas para resolverlos. Esperamos aprender aún más según se vaya desarrollando este Congreso.

Con alto respeto y estimación para todos nuestros compañeros los delegados, y con el conocimiento de que cada uno tiene mucho que ofrecer al bien común, unámonos para fortalecer y mejorar la estructura de la cooperación municipal en este gran hemisferio americano.

Es en este estado espiritual que extiendo a todos y cada uno de vosotros el cálido y cordial saludo de los ciudadanos de Nueva Orleans, la ciudad internacional. Termina expresando que se honra en ceder la palabra a S. E. el Sr. Presidente de Chile, el que pronunció el siguiente discurso:

Discurso de Apertura de S. E. el Sr. Presidente de Chile.

Por una feliz coincidencia me toca encontrarme en esta bella ciudad, cuando se inaugura la reunión del Tercer Congreso Interamericano de Municipios. Gustoso he aceptado el honor de acompañaros en tan significativa oportunidad y de ocupar esta tribuna por algunos momentos, con el ánimo de prestar el estímulo de Chile a la obra en que estais empeñados.

Otra coincidencia que debo mencionar, es el hecho de que a esta cooperación entre los Municipios de América dió su primer impulso formal la Quinta Conferencia Internacional Americana, celebrada en Santiago de Chile, en 1923. Esa memorable asamblea adoptó una resolución de la Delegación de Cuba, merced a la cual se recomendó a los Gobiernos americanos emplear medios adecuados para el acercamiento de los municipios dentro de cada país, y esforzarse por facilitar a los municipios nacionales la manera de entrar en relaciones con los municipios de los otros países americanos. La resolución tenia en vista los altos ideales de confraternidad continental y también los beneficios que podian derivarse de la experiencia.

Así, pues, señores, me es grato, como Presidente de Chile, intervenir en este acto solemne al cual mi país se siente vinculado por esa circunstancia digna de recordación.

Desde la Resolución de Santiago, el movimiento de cooperación intermunicipal en América ha venido desarrollándose con plausible actividad y positivos frutos. Todos debemos reconocer que la República hermana de Cuba ha puesto especial celo en el avance de la primitiva idea, logrando imponerla en el seno de la extinguida Sociedad de Naciones de Ginebra y, cinco años después, consiguiendo en la Sexta Conferencia Internacional Americana de la Habana, celebrada en 1928, una resolución en virtud de cuyos términos se encargó a la Unión Panamericana la organización del Primer Congreso Panamericano de Municipios, Congreso que se llevó a efecto en La Habana en 1938, y en el cual hubo 141 municipios representados. Allí se creó la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal a la que Chile ha prestado su permanente apoyo.

Y aquí encuentro, señores, una tercera coincidencia. El Segundo Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, se celebró como todos vosotros sabéis, en Santiago de Chile, del 15 al 21 de Diciembre de 1941. El Gobierno de mi país y la Municipalidad de Santiago se esmeraron en facilitar el funcionamiento del Congreso y en agasajar a los 292 delegados de los 19 países hermanos que concurrieron.

En esta ocasión se determinó que el Tercer Congreso se reuniera en Nueva Orleans, acuerdo que hoy se cumple, con singular brillo, dentro de la atmósfera de buena vecindad, que el Alcalde Mr. Morrison y sus colaboradores han creado inteligentemente desde hace varios años.

Nueva Orleans, junto al legendario Mississippi, es la frontera entre el mundo anglo-sajón y el mundo latino del Continente Americano. El origen latino de estas comarcas se combina armoniosamente con el orden anglo-sajón y cosmopolita de este inmenso y poderoso país que por la sabiduría de su Constitución y de sus leyes, mantiene la estrecha unión de los 48 estados que lo forman.

Pero aquí, en Nueva Orleans, hay algo que permite mirar más de cer-

ca a la América Latina; algo que da más transparencia al horizonte del sur y que da la sensación de una gran puerta abierta a la amistad de americanos del Norte y americanos del resto de nuestra América.

Permitidme, señores, que os felicite calurosamente por el trabajo realizado y que os augure el mejor éxito en vuestras labores. Este Congreso es un paso más hacia los fines de cooperación que se persiguen para el mejoramiento común de la institución municipal de todos nuestros países.

Chile estableció hace medio siglo el sistema de la comuna autónoma, tomando en gran parte el ejemplo de los Estados Unidos.

La reforma fué objeto de un gran debate político. Era una reforma substancial y arriesgada, con proyecciones económicas y sociales de mucha importancia dentro de un país de modestos recursos, y de juego político complicado No podría saberse a punto fijo si lo que era bueno en una nación de ciertas características jurídicas y raciales, sería igualmente bueno en otra de diferentes condiciones. Adoptada la sensacional reforma, al través del tiempo hemos visto que la autonomía municipal ha sido ventajosa para el conjunto de las comunas de Chile, y que los defectos excepcionales del funcionamiento del sistema admiten paulatina rectificación.

Hemos visto también, que la Municipalidad en sí misma, como institución tradicional heredada de España, y la Municipalidad con sus nuevos atributos de autonomía, es una escuela de civismo, de sana rivalidad en el espíritu de progreso, de ejercicio del derecho a sufragio y de dignificación del ciudadano.

Muchos son los hombres públicos de mi país, como ocurre en otros aquí representados, que han iniciado su carrera política en los municipios o la han terminado en ellos. En Chile conozco ex-Senadores y ex-Ministros de Estado que después de ocupar tan altos cargos, aceptaron el honor de ser concejales en municipios grandes o pequeños. Pero el más hermoso caso de este orden, es el del ex-Presidente de Chile, don Jorge Montt. Este ilustre Mandatario, miembro de nuestra gloriosa Marina Nacional, después de ejercer la Presidencia de la República, en sus años de retiro, fué durante largo tiempo Alcalde de la Municipalidad de Valparaíso. Y yo os declaro que si el Destino me reservara en un futuro el privilegio de seguir sirviendo a mi Patria, mi gran ambición sería ser Alcalde de la Serena, mi ciudad natal, que es uno de los sitios más placenteros y hermosos de Chile, y que al igual que Nueva Orleans, ha mantenido el equilibrio arquitectónico entre la belleza de la ciudad antigua y el impulso progresista de lo nuevo.

Con esto creo expresar el pleno concepto de admiración que tengo por la vieja institución del Municipio, al igual que lo tienen todos mis conciudadanos.

Al Municipio están ligados diversos intereses comunales que dicen relación con la cultura, la salud, los negocios y la seguridad de los habitantes de cada comuna. Su esfera de acción no es la misma en los diversos países de América. Tampoco lo es el grado de su autonomía económica y financiera, variable aún dentro de un mismo territorio nacional. Pero la substancia de la organización municipal es idéntica en todas partes, y de ella se recogen los frutos benéficos de la descentralización administrativa estatal. El poder del Municipio elimina, en gran proporción, los inconvenientes del estatismo centralizado; re-

parte en forma racional y equitativa la responsabilidad del manejo interno de la Nación, dando ingerencia directa en los asuntos vecinales a un mayor número de ciudadanos.

En Chile, desde hace algunos años, dimos el derecho de voto municipal al extranjero residente, y le dimos, también, el derecho de ser electo miembro del cuerpo edilicio. No pareció justo que el extranjero, miembro de la sociedad comunal, estuviera privado de participar activamente en la marcha de la comuna de su residencia.

El actual derecho de sufragio político que posee la mujer chilena, lo ensayamos primero concediéndole el derecho a sufragio municipal, y me es halagador afirmar que varias mujeres se han distinguido como notables Alcaldesas en diversos Municipios.

Os agradezco, señores, el honor que me habéis dispensado de recibirme en esta importante asamblea. Se que el acierto de vuestras deliberaciones y acuerdos será el resultado de vuestra acción prudente y sagaz. Todos conseguiremos las ventajas de la cooperación interamericana municipal; y si algo puedo prometer, es que Chile, en lo que del Poder Ejecutivo dependa, seguirá allegando su contribución al normal desarrollo de este utilísimo movimiento, inspirado en los más puros principios de libertad y genuina Democracia.

Martes, 2 de Mayo, 3 p.m.

II Sesión Plenaria.

Abrió la sesión como Presidente actuante, el Director General señor Louis Brownlow, explicando que ocupaba la Presidencia porque el Presidente en propiedad, Dr. Antonio Beruff Mendieta, a quien se debe el inicio efectivo de este movimiento de cooperación intermunicipal, cuando en 1938 siendo Alcalde de La Habana, obtuvo del Ayuntamiento de dicha ciudad los créditos necesarios y convocó a los Municipios de América al Primer Congreso Panamericano de Municipios en cumplimiento de la Resolución adoptada por la VI Conferencia Internacional Americana, donde se le eligió Presidente, en cuyo cargo fué ratificado en el II Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, celebrado en Santiago de Chile en 1941, se había visto impedido de asistir.

Que es justo hacer constar aquí, que el Dr. Beruff Mendieta fué la acción que puso en movimiento esta organización, que, durante todos estos años ha recibido el aporte valioso de su inspiración y de su alto sentido de servicio pública, prestando siempre su colaboración con la mayor modestia y gran altruismo, como lo demuestran estas palabras que tomo de su carta dirigida al Secretario Dr. Carlos M. Morán.

Mensaje del Dr. Beruff Mendieta.

"Unicamente cuestiones inaplazables para mí, me impiden asistir. El movimiento toma una nueva faz y estará en las manos expertas de sus fundadores y genuinos propulsores y en las de los que habrán de darle nuevo impulso y nuevos entusiasmos, propios de los que se inician en labores de esta índole. Acepta estas simples líneas como el reconocimiento más sincero de tu colaboración así como de haber sido en compañía de Brownlow, los incansables sostenedores de la Cooperación Intermunicipal Panamericana. Con todo mi afecto para ustedes te ruego extiendas un cordial saludo y presentes mi más cumplida excusa a todos los asistentes a la III Reunión".

El Sr. Brownlow hizo saber a la Asamblea que el Alcalde Municipal de La Habana, Dr. José Díaz Garrido, Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo, se había visto imposibilitado de asistir y había enviado el siguiente cablegrama:

Cable del Alcalde de La Habana.

"Lamento que asuntos oficiales exijan mi presencia aquí impidiéndome asistir III Reunión C.I.M. por cuyo éxito hago mejores votos. Delego representación mi persona y este Municipio en Dr. Carlos M. Morán, Letrado Asesor de esta Alcaldía y Secretario C.P.C.I. ya en esa. Saludos cordiales para todos con un mensaje de reafirmación por el mantenimiento y auge de la cooperación intermunicipal surgida de un acuerdo de nuestra Cámara Municipal y mantenida siempre con especial cuidado por esta Ciudad de La Habana".

El Presidente Sr. Brownlow leyó a continuación el siguiente mensaje del Sr. Ricardo González Cortés, Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo y Ex-Presidente del II Congreso Interamericano de Municipios:

Mensaje del Arquitecto Ricardo González Cortés (Chile).

"En un día como el de hoy, que la providencia suspiciará para prohijar el buen camino y el destino de los pueblos de las Américas, que sin duda será luminoso y bello, en un marco armonioso de confraternidad, se reúnen en la histórica ciudad de Nueva Orleans, cuyos destinos dirige el Alcalde deLesseps S. Morrison, mensajeros venidos de todos los municipios del continente, sanamente inspirados en una, fuerte emoción de bien público y pletórico en anhelos para hacer triunfar en afán de renacimiento edilicio, el sobrio temario oficial que inspira fecunda misión: técnica, administrativa y financiera".

"Y de modo general cuanto concurra a la mayor eficiencia de los complicados servicios públicos, que así forman la base fundamental de la democrática comuna de nuestros días".

"Sin temor a discrepancias, los elementos de juicio que se habrán reunido por las cuatro relatorías, que en su oportunidad obtuvieron la autorización de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, y que serán sometidos a las prolijas y sensatas discriminaciones del Congreso, pese a sus múltiples referencias y a sus diversos puntos de vista, conducirán a que en un representativo y disciplinado cuadró de las concepciones que serán brillantes, desfilen deslumbradores ante los ojos de los congresistas las maravillas de la civilización actual. Espectáculo grandioso para que en una clara jerarquía y felicidad de las poblaciones, aparezcan como son y se adviertan las profundas transformaciones que se vienen produciendo en nuestro mundo de hoy día, que nos hace vibrar ante la era de la ciudad moderna, con un ritmo nuevo que hará a los hombres más fuertes, menos egoístas, y así se contribuya por este conducto, a la felicidad del hogar, al buscado engrandecimiento de la familia y, al de nuestras comunes patrias, siempre esperanzadas en conquistar un mundo mejor".

"Tampoco, pudiera creerse se subestiman las excelencias y ambientes propios de la vida rústica, que enaltecen al hombre del valle y de la áspera montaña, porque todo conjunta en ese eterno escenario de luchas ancestrales como síntesis del progreso y las conquistas nobles de la civilización".

"En esta hora de ponderada alegría que vive el hemisferio, ante la majestad emocionante de la presencia de todas las banderas de las naciones de las Américas, al señalar el primer paso de sus deliberaciones y a cuyo éxito están atentos los municipios de todo el Continente, ocurre que el inconfundible espíritu de colaboración y de confraternidad de estos pueblos coloca su destino inicial en esta ceremonia, en manos de nuestro distinguido compatriota y primer mandatario de la pequeña y más austral de las Repúblicas Andinas".

"Su alta investidura de gobernante máximo, joven y estudioso, que sabe que los momentos actuales requieren ciudadanos responsables y capaces, concurren magníficamente para que se comprendan nuestros anhelos de remodelamientos y embellecimientos urbanísticos de las ciudades, así como conocer por sus experiencias que la tierra tiene un fin social, y que ella es también patrimonio en la lucha por acentuar la paz de los humildes y de los trabajadores".

"Su presencia en este recinto, de actividades y de clarificaciones municipalistas se justifica ampliamente porque S. E. ha sido un forjador incansable de las reivindicaciones justas, que sugieren las reformas estructurales de los pueblos para su bienestar colectivo y que en esta hora interrogante se reflejarían como si se derivaran a un poema de América".

"Sr. Presidente del III Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, señores delegados: Los Municipios Sud-Americanos que represento en el Comité Ejecutivo de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal; la Unión Nacional de Municipios de Chile; y, la Comisión Delegada de la que forman parte integrante los señores alcaldes de las ciudades mayoritarias de Santiago, Valparaíso y Viña del Mar, depositan en estos momentos sobre mí una grata obligación al hacer llegar al seno de la Asamblea un mensaje interpretativo de la sincera buena vecindad, y de franco buen éxito, así también un serio compromiso para procurar cumplir este cometido ante los hermanos delegados de las Américas allí convocados".

"Finalmente, como arquitecto y municipal comprendo el panorama de la ciudad como muchos de los colegas que siempre nos han acompañado y compartido las labores de planeamiento y urbanismo, con sus inquietudes y angustias por lograr el mejoramiento y reestructuración de las caducas ciudades de América. Y haciéndonos eco de un lenguaje rumoroso y sentimental, repetiremos como el gran pensador y orientador argentino Lo Valvo "que tiempos llegarán —y no distantes— en que el mundo se sorprenda de haber pasado indiferente, cuando no sarcástico y agresivo, ante dones y conquistas de aquella disciplina extraordinaria; en que las calles, las plazas, las fuentes, empiecen a revelarnos sus secretos recónditos, empiecen a hablarnos en su idioma cautivante y bienhechor".

El Presidente Sr. Louis Brownlow, manifestó, que de acuerdo con el reglamento de esta III Reunión se iba a proceder a la insaculación de los Vice-Presidentes de esta reunión, para que los Jefes de las Delegaciones de cada país, pasaran a ocupar sus asientos en la Presidencia, de acuerdo con el orden que les correspondiera en el sorteo. Practicado éste por el Sr. Secretario en unión del Sr. John J. Kennedy, dió el siguiente resultado:

Orden de Vice-presidencias.

1. Haití.
2. Bolivia.
3. Estados Unidos de América.
4. Perú.
5. Chile.
6. Venezuela.
7. Uruguay.
8. Panamá.
9. Argentina.
10. Canadá.
11. Brasil.
12. Colombia.
13. El Salvador.
14. República Dominicana.
15. Ecuador.
16. Paraguay.
17. Honduras.
18. Guatemala.
19. México.
20. Nicaragua.
21. Costa Rica.
22. Cuba.

Terminado este sorteo y de acuerdo con el orden respectivo fueron llamados por el Secretario Dr. Morán para ocupar sus asientos en la Presidencia, los señores:

1. P. B. Clemenceau.
2. Jesús Aspiazu.
3. Herbert Emmerich.
4. Oscar Freyre.
5. Augusto Pumarino.
6. Federico A. Ponce.
7. Juan A. Scasso.
8. Alberto Navarro.
9. Alejandro Orfila.
10. George C. McLean.
11. Antonio Pezzolo.
12. Pablo Bernal Restrepo.
13. Luis Nuila López.
14. Virgilio Alvarez Sánchez.
15. Jorge Concha.
16. Agustín E. Pradillo.
17. Roberto Ugarte.
18. Juan Ibarra.
19. Rafael Ximenes Castro.
20. Sra. Josefa Toledo de Aguerri.
21. Joaquín Lizano B.
22. Carlos Maruri.

Ocuparon también sitiales de honor los Excmos. Sres. Luis Quintanilla, Presidente de la Organización de Estados Americanos y Paul C. Daniels, Embajador de los E. U. de A. ante dicha organización y los representantes de Gobiernos Nacionales, señores: Octavio Allende, de Chile; José M. Cuéllar de Colombia; Antonio Bruzón, de Cuba; Germán Cruz Ayala, de la República Dominicana; Manuel R. Villacorta, de El Salvador, y Juan Brín Jr., de Panamá y el Sr. Paul R. Kelbaugh, de la U. P.

El Presidente Sr. Brownlow informó a la Asamblea que de acuerdo con el Artículo XVII del Reglamento de estas Reuniones, los Miembros del Comité Ejecutivo de la Organización y los Vice-Presidentes del Congreso, compondrán una Comisión de Iniciativas, Coordinación y Resoluciones, la que será presidida por el Presidente del Congreso, examinará los proyectos y propuestas que habrán de ser sometidos al mismo y coordinará las actividades de las diversas Comisiones en que pueda estar dividido o que sean nombradas para el desarrollo de fases particulares de sus asuntos. Igualmente informó que había sido designada una Comisión de Credenciales, en cumplimiento de lo dispuesto en el segundo párrafo del Artículo V del Reglamento, así como una Comisión de Estilo como dispone el Artículo XVIII; que la Comisión de Credenciales quedó integrada por los señores: Daniel W. Hoan, Presidente; J. M. Monasterio, y Carlos M. Morán; y la de Estilo por los señores: Rowland Egger, Presidente; José M. Cuéllar, Ismael Puerta Flores, Virgilio Alva-

rez Sánchez y la señora Felisa Rincón de Cautier.

El Presidente Sr. Brownlow solicitó del Sr. Hoan que rindiera el Informe del Comité de Credenciales, lo que se efectuó, expresando dicho señor Hoan que la Comisión encontraba en orden las credenciales de las personas que se habían inscripto en el Congreso, por lo que no tenía ninguna objeción que hacer.

A continuación el Sr. Presidente interesó de la Asamblea que cualquier proyecto de resolución o iniciativa se sometiera a la respectiva Comisión, haciendo entrega del correspondiente proyecto en la Secretaría.

Siguiendo el Orden del Día, el Presidente Sr. Brownlow llamó al doctor Morán para que emitiera el Informe de su cargo como Secretario de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal. El Dr. Carlos M. Morán usó de la palabra para expresar que teniendo en cuenta el escaso tiempo disponible para todos los trabajos del Congreso y habiéndose repartido profusamente, en inglés y español, un folleto conteniendo la historia de todo lo realizado hasta ahora, rogaba a los presentes que aceptaran el mismo en sustitución de su Informe.

El Presidente Sr. Brownlow solicitó del Sr. P. B. Clemenceau, que asumiera la Presidencia por tener necesidad de ausentarse por algunos momentos del salón.

A continuación ocupó la tribuna, en representación de Sur América, el Sr. Juan A. Scasso, quien en bellas frases extendió un cordial saludo a todos los Delegados al Congreso, expresando el gran interés de todos los municipios suramericanos y especialmente los de su país, Uruguay, por el éxito de las labores de esta reunión y por la reafirmación de esta labor de cooperación intermunicipal, hasta el punto que sus benéficos resultados pudieran llegar a todos los municipios y especialmente a aquéllos que por sus pocos recursos económicos necesitaban más de esta ayuda mutua; que se sentía altamente satisfecho de haber sido escogido como uno de los oradores de la tarde; pero que no quería hacer un extenso discurso, ya que estimaba que lo esencial de estas reuniones era el trabajo serio y acucioso sobre los temas técnicos incluídos en el programa, de cuyo trabajo pudieran derivarse conclusiones útiles para los gobiernos locales.

El Presidente en funciones, Sr. P. B. Clemenceau, de Haití, concedió la palabra al Sr. George McLean, para que hablara a nombre de los municipios del Canadá.

El Sr. McLean leyó lo siguiente:

"En mi condición de Presidente de la Federación Canadiense de Alcaldes y Municipios traigo a ustedes saludos cálidos y cordiales de los alcaldes y funcionarios municipales de Canadá".

"Es con el mayor placer que traslado a Uds. también, el saludo amistoso y los mejores deseos del Primer Ministro de Canadá, Hon. Sr. Louis S. St. Laurent. En mensaje que me remitió pocos días antes de mi partida para Nueva Orleans, escribió lo que sigue:

Mensaje del Hon. Primer Ministro del Canadá.

"Me ha interesado saber que usted va al frente de una Delegación de alcaldes canadienses para asistir a la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, en Nueva Orleans, del 2 al 5 de mayo. Agradecería que Ud. aceptara y bondosamente transmitiera al anfitrión del Congreso, Alcalde deLesseps S. Morrison y a los otros representantes de los mu-

nicipios del Sur, Centro y Norte América, que estarán presentes, mis saludos más cordiales y mis mejores deseos en esta ocasión. Estoy seguro que estas reuniones internacionales de alcaldes con el fin de considerar problemas comunes de la Administración Municipal servirán no sólo para eliminar muchos de estos problemas, sí que también para fortificar los lazos que unen a todas las Américas en una amplia fraternidad de naciones amigas".

"De esta carta de nuestro Primer Ministro y por virtud de la presidencia en esta reunión hoy, de mi colega el Alcalde Garnet Coulter, y de la mía, ustedes se percatarán seguramente, de que en el Canadá estamos grandemente interesados por unos más estrechos lazos fraternales entre nuestro país y los países democrático de todas partes".

"Estamos particularmente deseosos de ver desarrollarse una más estrecha relación práctica entre los gobiernos municipales de Canadá y los de la región del Atlántico Occidental. Para lograr esto, entendemos que es deseable que de tiempo en tiempo se celebren reuniones de líderes municipales representativos que permitan intercambio de puntos de vistas y experiencias con respecto a las cuestiones que se refieren a los asuntos cívicos y de administración municipal".

"Este Congreso Interamericano de Municipios realiza tal función. Como tal está rindiendo un servicio útil a los gobiernos municipales de Norte, Centro y Sur América. Canadá, como ustedes probablemente saben, no es miembro de la Unión Panamericana. Esto, de todas maneras, no nos ha impedido estar aquí presentes, tanto en nuestro carácter individual, como en el de delegados oficiales de las ciudades y pueblos de Canadá; tampoco excluye nuestra participación plena en sus deliberaciones".

"Es una emocionante y conmovedora experiencia el encontrarnos cara a cara con los líderes municipales de otros países y hablar con ellos sobre nuestros problemas comunes. Esta es la razón formal de esta reunión y es evidente que este propósito está en franco proceso de realización. Pero en el fondo de los objetivos apuntados de este Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, yace un motivo más hondo para reunirnos.

"Estamos aquí, y estoy seguro que cada uno de ustedes está aquí, porque, en lo profundo de nuestros corazones, nosotros los canadienses deseamos comprender y ser comprendidos por los pueblos de otros países. Los que estamos reunidos hoy aquí, podremos hablar distintos idiomas y nuestras tradiciones culturales pueden provenir de distintas raíces, pero fundamentalmente, nuestras aspiraciones personales, domésticas e internacionales son las mismas".

"Buscamos un mundo pacífico. Buscamos para nuestras respectivas naciones una sociedad ordenada donde el juego de las fuerzas democráticas pueda progresivamente alcanzar un mejor y más alto nivel de vida. Buscamos para nosotros y para nuestras familias la mayor libertad, felicidad y seguridad y deseamos lo mismo para todas las personas en todas partes".

"Creemos, además, que en la realización de estos fines deseados, los gobiernos municipales en un país democrático tienen un espléndido y significativo papel que desempeñar. Es importante, por lo tanto, que haya en lo posible, el más libre intercambio de puntos de vista y experiencia entre los líderes municipales de las naciones democráticas".

"Este Congreso Interamericano de Municipios proporciona tal oportunidad y es por esta razón, que nos complace el estar presente y tener el privilegio de atender y participar en el interesante programa que se ha preparado".

"Es una ocasión que no sólo nos anima a apresurar nuestros esfuerzos hacia los propósitos de que el gobierno municipal pueda servir mejor los intereses y el bienestar del pueblo de Canadá, sino lo que es igualmente importante, nos proporciona la oportunidad de beneficiarnos con el conocimiento y la experiencia de otros. A través de la participación de ideas e intercambio de experiencia sobre nuestros problemas comunes, los gobiernos municipales de aquellos países representados hoy aquí estarán alerta sobre los acontecimientos que ocurran en cualquier parte. De esta manera estarán mejor informados, y estando mejor informados, serán mucho más competentes para enfrentarse con estos problemas, según vayan surgiendo en sus respectivas comunidades".

"Reuniones de esta clase son en interés de un buen gobierno municipal nosotros los canadienses, nos sentimos encantados de tener el privilegio de estar presente".

Terminado el discurso del señor McLean, el Vice-Presidente actuante, Sr. P. B. Clemenceau (Haití), concedió la palabra al Sr. Herbert Emmerich, para que hablara por los municipios estadounidenses.

Mensaje del C.A.C.M.I.

El Sr. Emmerich expresó que no ostentaba la representación de los E.E. U.U. de A., sino que traía al Congreso los buenos deseos y el saludo cordial para todos los delegados del Comité Americano para la Cooperación Municipal Internacional, que se honraba en presidir, y que estaba integrado por un grupo de organizaciones técnicas dedicadas al estudio y solución de los diversos problemas de la administración pública, especialmente en el ámbito del gobierno municipal, encontrándose entre ellas la "Asociación Americana de Municipios".

Explicó que este Comité que hasta principios de este año se denominaba "Comité Americano para la Unión de Autoridades Locales", se ha interesado siempre mucho por la labor de la Cooperación Intermunicipal, tanto en relación con la organización que existía en Bruselas y ahora en La Haya, como con esta, con sede en La Habana; que en la medida de sus posibilidades se ha prestado el mayor apoyo que en cada ocasión ha sido dable prestar y que puede afirmar, por razón de sus muchos años de contacto directo con este tipo de movimiento, que es de gran utilidad y necesidad para facilitar el rápido conocimiento y traslación del progreso, para familiarizar a los funcionarios municipales con sus colegas de otras latitudes, sus problemas y los diversos tipos de solución puestos en práctica, con lo que se llega por semejanza a una estrecha y cordial amistad entre los que tienen a su cargo la dirección de los asuntos públicos locales.

El Sr. Emmerich hizo saber a la concurrencia, que él era portador de un cordial mensaje de la "Unión Internacional de Autoridades Locales", a que antes se refirió firmada por H. D. Revers, y que se permitía leer:

Mensaje de la U. I. A. L.

"Estimado Sr. Emmerich: Contestando a una invitación para la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, escribimos al Dr. Carlos M. Morán, Secretario de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación

Intermunicipal que no podríamos enviar un delegado de Europa, pero que solicitaríamos de uno de nuestros miembros americanos que nos representara. Le escribimos por tanto a usted como Presidente del Comité Americano para la Cooperación Municipal Internacional, pidiéndole tenga la amabilidad de usar de la palabra en la III Reunión a nombre nuestro, para expresar el deseo de que los lazos entre la Comisión Panamericana y la U.I.A.L. se estrechen y sean cada vez mas fuertes. Esperamos que la Reunión sea un éxito. ¿Podríamos pedirle otra cosa? Nos gustaría publicar un reportaje corto acerca de la Reunión en el número de Junio del Boletín de U.I.A.L. que debe entrar en prensa alrededor del 15 de mayo".

El Vice-Presidente actuante interesó del que le seguía en turno que ocupara la Presidencia, haciéndolo así el Sr. Julio Aspiazu (Bolivia).

El Sr. P. B. Clemenceau (Haití) usó de la palabra con el fin de transmitir a todos los delegados el saludo cordial de los Municipios y funcionarios municipales de su país, así como sus votos por el éxito de la Reunión. Señaló que su país había contribuído siempre al mantenimiento y auge de esta labor de cooperación intermunicipal, y que seguramente continuará haciéndolo con la misma decisión e interés.

El Vice-Presidente actuante Sr. Jesús Aspiazu (Bolivia), invitó al señor Rafael Ximenez Castro, de México, el que accedió gustoso leyendo lo siguiente:

"Es un alto honor para mí el haber sido bondadosamente invitado, en mi carácter de Cónsul de México, para asistir a esta sesión del III Congreso Interamericano de Municipalidades. Deseo en lo personal que las deliberaciones que se llevan a cabo en esta ocasión, se traduzcan en beneficos frutos para las municipalidades de los países de este gran Continente. Estoy convencido de que la labor de ustedes es titánica, pero igualmente tengo la seguridad de que el resultado final será de gran utilidad para nuestros respectivos países, y de que los nombres de todos ustedes quedarán grabados en la memoria de las futuras generaciones. Una vez más permítome desearles un absoluto éxito en sus deliberaciones".

Mensaje de la A.B.M.

El Ingeniero Sr. Antonio Pezzolo, Delegado de la Asociación Brasileira de Municipios y de la Prefectura Municipal de Santo Andre. Estado de San Pablo, Brasil, ocupó la tribuna y leyó lo siguiente:

"Em nome de ASSOCIAÇAO Brasileira DOS MUNICIPIOS a que temos a honra de representar e do Municipio de SANTO ANDRE, do Estado de São Paulo, Brasil, do qual somos delegado, ao sentir contacto com este abençoado sólo, saudamos este POVO nobre e bom e particularmente ao dinamico Prefeito desta maravilhosa cidade NOVA ORLEANS, Mr. deLesseps S. Morrison, que nosacolbe fraternalmente como sede do III CONGRESO INTERAMERICANO DE MUNICIPIOS".

"Estas saudações são tambem extensivas aos demais representantes dos paizes irmãos, homens estudiosos e de bôa vontade, cheios de fé nos principios Municipalistas que, dando o que melhor a experiência e a pratica tem-lhes propiciado no complexo campo das atividades Municipais, procuram assim, por intermedio destes Congressos, com a maxima lealdade e sinceridade, e com sentido pratico, a comprehensao a solução dos ideais comuns, creando com bases solidas, vinculos de uma efetiva e duradoura União Continental".

"Para conseguirmos uma America forte e Unida devemos praticar o verdadeiro Municipalismo porque significa dar mais e com mais eficiencia educação, saude, habitação, transporte, urbanismo, etc., e com isto estaremos desenvolvendo recursos para melhores condições de vida de nosso Povo e concomitantemente elevando seu nivel intelectual e moral."

"Énos bastante honroso ter a incumbencia de apresentar oficialmente a este magno conclave, em nome da ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DOS MUNICIPIOS a CARTA DE DECLARAÇÃO DE PRINCIPIOS, DIREITOS E REIVINDICAÇÕES MUNICIPAIS (aparece en otro lugar del "Boletín") a qual resultou da conjugação de esforços de mais de 1,600 Municipios Brasileiros que, realisando primeiramente congressos locais, regionais, e depois estaduais, levaram a efeito finalmente, de 1 a 9 de Abril proximo passado, na cidade de Petropolis, o I CONGRESSO NACIONAL DOS MUNICIPIOS BRASILEIROS, onde, numa grande prova de unidade de ação e de fé nos ideais Municipalistas, foram consubstanciadas as medidas de ordem objetivas reclamadas pelos Municipios Brasileiros."

"Com a fé que nos trouxe a esta terra, fazemos sinceros votos para que sejam os mais fecundos e profutivos os trabalhos deste Congresso que ja antevemos considerando a alta capacidade dos seus componentes e não temos duvida em afirmar, que os seus resultados serão os mais beneficos para todos no sentido de serem realisados os anseios das comunas Americanas."

"Unidos ja estamos pela continuidade do solo que se extende desde Alaska ate a Terra do Fogo, reforcemos esses laços espiritualmente cultivando e incentivando nossos sentimentos comuns e aproximando, cada vez mais, nossos corações."

Se dió lectura a mensajes de salutación y excusas de las siguientes personas: Dr. Luis L. Boffi, de Buenos Aires, República Argentina; doctor Héctor Romero Menéndez, de Guayaquil, Ecuador; M. Raphael Brouard, de Port-au-Prince, Haití; Prof. Rafael Xavier, de Rio de Janeiro, Brasil; Henrique Luis Roman, Alcalde de Cartagena, Colombia; Michael D. Disalle, Alcalde de Toledo, Ohio; Joaquin Lizano Bonilla, Gobernador y Ejecutivo Municipal de San José de Costa Rica; General Martínez, Alcalde de Lima, Perú; Thomas L. Cummings, Alcalde de Nashville, Tennessee, John Y. Ducey, Director Ejecutivo de la "National Association of Housing Officials", excusando la presencia del Presidente de la misma, Sr. Robinson.

Viernes, 5 de Mayo, 3 p.m.

Sesión Plenária de Clausura.

Presidente el Sr. Luis Brownlow y actúa de Secretario el Dr. Carlos M. Morán.

1. *Informe del Comité de Iniciativas.*

El Secretario da cuenta con lo tratado y acordado en la sesión especial de la noche anterior.

El Sr. Brownlow dice que el primer asunto a tratar es el de la discusión y aprobación de los Estatutos, según fueron modificados y acordados por aclamación en la sesión de ayer.

El Sr. Brin, Jr. (Panamá), pide que se aprueben por aclamación, pues-

tos de pie los delegados, y al hacerlo así todos los presentes, el Presidente los dá por aprobados.

Palabras del Excmo. Sr. L. Quintanilla:

El Excmo. Sr. Luis Quintanilla (O.E.A.) hace uso de la palabra para extender su felicitación a los organizadores por su esfuerzo, que han visto compensado por el éxito alcanzado. Recuerda las dificultades de la Unión Panamericana en sus inicios. Dice que esta organizacin es única y pionera al nivel municipal; que ha de prosperar y que a diferencia de los congresos de naciones, a los proximos congresos de esta Organización asistirán miles de delegados de los municipios de todas partes de la América. Ratifica su simpatía por esta labor y su ofrecimiento de ayuda en el seno del Consejo de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, para obtener todo el apoyo y auxilio que puedan necesitarse. Habla de la pirámide de la democracia para afirmar que el éxito ha de coronar esta obra, porque la base de esa pirámide es el municipio.

El Sr. Jorge Concha (Ecuador), propone y así se acuerda por aclamación, que a estos Estatutos se les dé la denominación de "Carta de Nueva Orleans", en inglés "Act of New Orleans".

2. Informe de la Comisión de Estilo.

El Presidente llama al Sr. Rowland Egger, quien divide el informe de la comisión que preside en tres partes:
a) Resoluciones de carácter general;
b) resoluciones de carácter técnico y
c) resoluciones de carácter particular.

Leídas las resoluciones, y sometidas a la consideración de los presentes, son aprobadas en el orden que sigue y con la redacción con que aparecen en el Acta Final.

I. *Fe Democrática y Autonomía Municipal.*

El Sr. Daniel W. Hoan, hace uso de la palabra, para explicar que el contenido de esa resolución es el producto de la experiencia y fué ya aprobada por el Comité Americano para la Cooperación Municipal Internacional; también hace uso de la palabra en defensa de esta resolución la Sra. Felisa Rincón de Gautier (Puerto Rico) y se aprueba por aclamación, para que aparezca en el Acta Final con anterioridad y como un preámbulo de los nuevos Estatutos aprobados para esta Organización.

II. *Estatutos de la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal.*

III. *Relaciones entre los municipios y las más altas esferas de Gobierno, especialmente de carácter hacendístico.*

IV. *Acción y función de los municipios en la solución de los problemas de la vivienda.*

V. *Planeación municipal.*

VI. *Problemas del tránsito en las ciudades.*

VII. *Contribución de los Ayuntamientos de la América para la erección del Faro de Colón en ciudad Trujillo, República Dominicana.*

Hace uso de la palabra para dar las gracias el señor Virgilio Alvarez Sánchez.

VIII. *Creación de la oficina de intercambio cultural municipal.*

IX. *Enseñanza de Derecho y Gobierno Municipal comparados.*

X. *Delegaciones culturales.*
XI. *Turismo interamericano.*
XII. *Gratitud al presidente de Chile.*
XIII. *Gratitud al Presidente Truman.*
XIV. *Gratitud al primer Ministro del Canadá.*
XV. *Gratitud a la organización de los Estados Americanos.*
XVI. *Gratitud al Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos de América.*
XVII. *Gratitud a gobiernos de América.*
XVIII. *Gratitud a contribuyentes.*
XIX. *Agradecimiento a la ciudad de Nueva Orleans y a varias agencias e instituciones.*
XX. *Gratitud a los ponentes y autores de trabajos.*
XXI. *Invitación a los municipios Canadienses.*
XXII. *Felicitación e invitación a la Asociación Brasileira de Municipios.*
XXIII. *Gratitud al Dr. Antonio Beruff Mendieta.*
XXIV. *Gratitud al señor Louis Brownlow.*
XXV. *Gratitud a "Public Administration Clearing House".*
XXVI. *Agradecimiento por las invitaciones para la IV Reunión.*
XXVII. *Gratitud a los redactores de los Estatutos.*
XXVIII. *Gratitud a la Unión Internacional de Autoridades Locales.*
XXIX. *Gratitud al Sr. John J. Kennedy.*
XXX. *Gratitud al Secretariado.*

Diploma al Sr. Morrison.

El Presidente Sr. Brownlow, informó a los presentes que la sesión iba a ser interrumpida por unos segundos a fin de que el Alcalde de Oakland, California, hiciera entrega al Alcalde de Nueva Orleans de un pergamino de la Asociación de Municipios Estadounidenses.

Los delegados puestos de pie aplaudieron la entrega hecha en la plataforma de la presidencia al Honorable Sr. deLesseps S. Morrison, por el señor Clifford E. Rishell, a nombre de la referida asociación, de un bello pergamino, en su marco, que dice:

"POR CUANTO hace un año la "Asociación Municipal Americana "adoptó un programa de acción es-"pecífico para ayudar en la solución "de los problemas más apremiantes de "millares de comunas, y

"POR CUANTO, el Sr. De Les-"seps S. Morrison fué electo para di-"rigir ese movimiento y bajo su di-"rección la Asociación Municipal "Americana ha experimentado uno de "los años de más éxito en su histo-"ria, y

"POR CUANTO, como un resul-"tado directo de las normas puestas "en práctica bajo la dirección del "Alcalde Morrison las comunas han "recibido auxilios financieros sustan-"ciales, y bajo su dirección se ha "desarrollado un movimiento nacional "para obtener la autonomía municipal "para ciudades y villas, y

"POR CUANTO, de acuerdo con "la costumbre de la Asociación Muni-"cipal Americana el período presiden-"cial de esta Organización está limi-"tado a un año,

"POR TANTO, el Consejo de Fi-"duciarios de la Asociación Municipal "Americana,

RESUELVE:

"Expresar de este modo al Alcalde "Morrison el profundo aprecio de

"10,000 comunas de todos los Esta-"dos Unidos, por la forma distinguí-"da en que actuó como mandatario "y orientador del gobierno municipal "en los Estados Unidos, durante el "año de 1949".

3. *Informe sobre invitaciones para la IV Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios.*

El Presidente Sr. Brownlow llamó al Sr. Abel Gutiérrez, representante personal del miembro del Comité Ejecutivo en representación de los municipios Sur-Americanos, Arquitecto Sr. Ricardo González Cortés, para que emitiera este informe.

El Sr. Gutiérrez dijo; que se habían recibido las siguientes invitaciones:

1. Del Sr. Elmer E. Robinson, Alcalde de la ciudad y Condado de San Francisco, California, Estados Unidos de América.
2. Del Sr. Alberto E. Cobo, Alcalde de Detroit, Michigan, Estados Unidos de América, con el apoyo y adhesión de: Sr. G. Mennen Williams, Gobernador del Estado de Michigan; Sr. Harvey Campbell, Vice-Presidente Ejecutivo del Consejo Comercial de Detroit, Michigan; Sr. J. Lee Barret, Vice-Presidente Ejecutivo de la Oficina de Convenciones, de Detroit, Michigan; Sr. G. Merrill Lenox, Secretario Ejecutivo del Consejo de Iglesias, de Detroit, Michigan; Sr. Roy W. Gifford, Presidente del Comité de Asuntos Mundiales del Consejo Comercial, de Detroit, Michigan, y Sr. Fred H. Rollins, Jr., Presidente del Club Rotario, de Detroit, Michigan.
3. Del Sr. Juan A. Scasso, Delegado de Uruguay, a nombre de la ciudad de Montevideo.
4. Del Sr. Lucien Borne, Alcalde de la ciudad de Quebec, Canadá.

El Sr. Eduardo R. Roybal, Miembro del Consejo Municipal de Los Angeles, California, pidió la palabra para expresar que a nombre de su ciudad, hacía también la invitación, por cuanto tanto esta como sus autoridades se verían grandemente honradas conque en la misma se celebrara la IV Reunión del Congres o cualquier otra posterior.

El Sr. Abel Gutiérrez continuó informando a la Asamblea, que en la reunión celebrada en la noche anterior por los Miembros de la Comisión Panamericana, los delegados de gobiernos nacionales y los presidentes de delegaciones municipales, se había aceptado el principio de rotación y acordado someter a esta plenaria la decisión en principio de aceptar la invitación de Montevideo como sede de la IV Reunión en 1952, y que si así se aprobaba se expresaran las gracias por todos los otros ofrecimientos y se tuvieran en cuenta por la Comisión Panamericana a los efectos de lo dispuesto en los Estatutos de la Organización con respecto a este particular.

El Presidente Sr. Brownlow sometió a la consideración de los presentes el informe del Sr. Abel Gutiérrez, y fué aprobado por aclamación.

El Sr. Juan A. Scasso hace uso de la palabra para dar las gracias en nombre de su ciudad.

También hizo uso de la palabra el Sr. Néstor E. Figueiredo (Brasil), para expresar lo grato que resultaba que la IV Reunión se celebre en la bella ciudad de Montevideo, extendiéndose en consideraciones acerca de que muchas de las resoluciones aprobadas en esta Sesión Plenaria contienen principios que ya se practican en su país y que le ha sido muy satisfactorio participar en las deliberaciones de este Congreso.

4. *Informe del Comité de Postulaciones.*

El Presidente Sr. Louis Brownlow informó que de acuerdo con los Estatutos recientemente aprobados, la elección del Presidente de la Organización debe recaer en autoridad o funcionario municipal de la ciudad sede del Congreso que se esté celebrando; la del vice-Presidente, en autoridad o funcionario municipal de la ciudad que se escoja como sede del siguiente Congreso; que también hay que elegir un delegado del país en que se haya reunido el Congreso Interamericano de Municipios anterior al que se esté celebrando para integrar el Comité Ejecutivo de la Comisión Panamericana y que también hay que elegir al Secretario General, a propuesta del Comité Ejecutivo, quedando entonces además integrado el Comité Ejecutivo de la Organización por el Alcalde Municipal de La Habana, como miembro ex-oficio y por un delegado de los Estados Unidos de América que designa el Comité Americano para la Cooperación Municipal Internacional.

Que en vista de esos preceptos estatutorios e interpretando el sentir de los asistentes al Congreso, el Comité proponía la siguiente candidatura:

Para Presidente: El Alcalde de Nueva Orleans, Honorable Sr. DeLesseps S. Morrison; para vice-Presidente al Sr. Alcalde de Montevideo (Uruguay); para delegado en el Comité Ejecutivo de la ciudad donde se celebró el anterior Congreso: el Sr. Alcalde de Santiago de Chile y para Secretario General, el Dr. Carlos M. Morán.

Terminada la lectura de esta candidatura, la Asamblea, puesta de pie y aplaudiendo la aprobó por aclamación.

El Sr. Brownlow hizo entrega de la Presidencia al Sr. Morrison, quien en sentidas palabras dió las gracias por su elección y ofreció realizar todo lo que esté a su alcance para que durante el período de su presidencia se arraigue este movimiento y prospere la Organización.

El Sr. Augusto Pumarino (Chile), sube a la Presidencia y prende en la solapa del saco del Sr. Morrison, el emblema de Regidor de Valparaíso, como símbolo de fraternidad interamericana.

El Sr. Nuila López (El Salvador), pide un minuto de silencio en tributo a Washington, Morazán y Bolívar, grandes hombres de América que lucharon por la unión de todos los pueblos.

De pie se guarda un minuto de silencio.

El Sr. Brin (Panamá), pide que se rinda igual tributo a la memoria del más grande campeón de la democracia: Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Se guarda un minuto de silencio.

El Presidente Sr. DeLesseps S. Morrison, dió por terminadas las sesiones y deliberaciones de la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, e invitó a los delegados e individuos del Congreso a que firmaran el Acta Final y a que honraran con su presencia el acto que en su honor iba a tener el gusto de ofrecerles en el Gran Salón de Baile de este propio hotel.

OTROS ACTOS DE LA III REUNION

Domingo, 30 de Abril, 6 p.m.

Recepción en el New Orleans Country Club.

A esta hora comenzaron los actos sociales del Congreso, con una magnífica recepción en el New Orleans Country Club ofrecida por el señor Theodore Brent, Presidente de la "Mississippi Shiping Company Inc." (Delta Line), en honor de los Delegados.

En este acto, el Presidente de la Delegación de Venezuela, Sr. Federico A. Ponce, Presidente del Concejo Municipal de Caracas, hizo entrega al Sr. deLesseps S. Morrison, Alcalde de Nueva Orleans, de un valioso recuerdo consistente en una reproducción en miniatura, hecha en oro venezolano, de las mazas del antiguo cabildo de Caracas.

Igualmente, el Sr. Virgilio Alvarez Sánchez, Presidente del Distrito de Santo Domingo, hizo entrega al Alcalde Sr. Morrison, de una bella reproducción del estandarte de la primera ciudad dominicana.

Con motivo de estos bellos gestos de las Delegaciones de Venezuela y República Dominicana, se cambiaron frases de alta cordialidad y confraternidad intermunicipal entre los señores Ponce, Alvarez Sánchez y Morrison.

Lunes, 1º de Mayo, 7 p.m.

Banquete en Honor del Sr. Delesseps S. Morrison.

Se celebró el banquete en honor del Sr. deLesseps S. Morrison, Alcalde de la Ciudad y de los nuevos miembros del Concejo Municipal, al que fueron invitados los Delegados al Congreso y cuyo banquete fué ofrecido por el "Young Men's Business Club", el que se desarrolló de acuerdo con el siguiente programa: Himno Nacional; Invocación por el Rev. Dr. Julian B. Feibelman, Rabino del Templo de Sinaí; palabras por el Maestro de Ceremonias Jay Weil, Jr.; presentación de invitados; palabras del Alcalde Sr. deLesseps S. Morrison; discurso a nombre de los invitados, por el Hon. Hale Boggs, Miembro de la Cámara de Representantes por el Segundo Distrito Congresional del Estado de Louisiana y bendición por el RT. REV. MSGR. Lucien J. Caillouet, P. A., Vicario General de la Archidiósesis de Nueva Orleans.

Martes, 2 de Mayo, 11 p.m.

Recepción Universitaria.

Recepción ofrecida por las Universidades de Loyola y Tulane en el "Marquette Hall" de la primera de dichas Universidades, en honor de S.E. el Presidente de Chile y de los Delegados del Congreso.

12:30 p.m.

Almuerzo ofrecido por las organizaciones cívicas de la Ciudad de Nueva Orleans, en honor de los Delegados a la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios.

La Presidencia del almuerzo la ocupó el Sr. Daniel W. Hoan, de Milwaukee, Wisconsin, EE. UU. de América. La mesa presidencial fué ocupada por los siguientes señores: Pablo Bernal Restrepo, Alcalde de Medellín, Colombia; Garnet Coulter, Alcalde de Winnipeg, Canadá, Juan Scasso, representante personal del Alcalde de Montevideo, Uruguay; El-

mer Robinson, Alcalde de San Francisco, California; Juan Ibarra, Síndico Municipal y Presidente de la Delegación de Guatemala; Louis Brownlow, Director General de la Organización; Augusto Pumarino, Regidor de Valparaíso, Chile; Abel Gutiérrez Aguilera, representante personal del Sr. Ricardo González Cortés; Herbert Emmerich, del American Committee for International Municipal Cooperation y Carlos M. Morán, Secretario General de la Organización.

El Dr. Carlos M. Morán anunció que siguiendo la costumbre y las reglas establecidas para los congresos de esta clase en este país, (EE. UU. de América), se habían escogido al azar a varias personas para que ocupasen lugares en la mesa presidencial, y brindarles la oportunidad de decir unas palabras a los miembros del Congreso, expresando sus puntos de vista sobre el trabajo del mismo y las ventajas que se pueden sacar. Que el Sr. Daniel W. Hoan, quien durante 26 años fué Alcalde electo de Milwaukee, caso único en la historia municipal del país y quien siempre ha defendido e impulsado el movimiento intermunicipal en Norteamérica, había sido escogido para presidir en homenaje a *todas las municipalidades de América*. Que a cada orador se le concederían cinco minutos y que en los otros almuerzos otros tendrían la oportunidad de hacer uso de la palabra. Se refirió también a la presencia del ex-Senador de los Estados Unidos, James P. Pope, uno de los comisionados del "Tennessee Valley Authority", el que invitaba a cualquiera de los miembros del Congreso que desearen hacerlo, a visitar su organización y ver lo que allí se ha hecho.

El Sr. Hoan asumió la Presidencia, hizo unos anuncios especiales de interés al Congreso, se refirió de nuevo al ex-Senador Pope y a su amable invitación, habló sobre la organización y su trabajo, e hizo la presentación del Sr. Pablo Bernal Restrepo, Alcalde de Medellín, Colombia.

El Sr. Bernal Restrepo dijo que el azar le había concedido el privilegio de ser el primer orador ante las sesiones de trabajo del Congreso, que se alegraba estar en la hospitalaria Ciudad de Nueva Orleans que ya amaba, ya que igual a su propia Ciudad, era resultado de la civilización española y más tarde de la influencia francesa. Que su país siempre trabajaba en pro de la comprensión mutua entre los países de América y que su tarea siempre había sido la de mejorar las relaciones entre todos los países de América a través de lo que llamó solidaridad y panamericanismo. Dió las gracias al Alcalde de Nueva Orleans y a los funcionarios de dicha Ciudad por su hospitalidad y expresó la esperanza que el Congreso tendría éxito para servir de fortalecimiento al creciente movimiento municipal interamericano.

El siguiente orador lo fué el señor Garnet Coulter, Alcalde de Winnipeg, Canadá. Dijo que a su llegada a Nueva Orleans fué sometido a una entrevista por los periodistas, los que mostraron su sorpresa al encontrar a un canadiense tan al Sur, reuniéndose con personas de la América Latina y de los Estados Unidos. Que parece que los periodistas creyeron que había algo sospechoso en todo esto y pensaron que quizás su viaje se debía a que buscaba comercio para su país. Que él les aseguró que no se hallaba aquí en viaje de negocios sino simplemente en misión de buena voluntad internacional y para aprender lo que pudiera de este intercambio de ideas sobre asuntos municipales de funcionarios municipales y representantes de tantos países, porque, des-

pués de todo, los problemas de los municipios de la América Latina, como los del Canadá y los Estados Unidos, son casi iguales; que todos nos damos cuenta de la importancia del gobierno municipal en la organización de cualquier país y que un intercambio de puntos de vista, lo que suministra una reunión de esta clase, siempre es beneficioso. Que esta Organización y este Congreso son ambos un experimento muy interesante en el campo de las relaciones públicas y que mientras más se aprendiera en estos intercambios, las cosas resultarían mejores para todos. Que traía el saludo del Consejo Municipal de Winnipeg a todos los Miembros del Congreso y que aunque él no era el porta voz oficial de los Miembros canadienses del Congreso, a los cuales el Congreso había de oir más adelante, quería aprovechar la oportunidad para expresar su agradecimiento al Alcalde y a los funcionarios municipales de Nueva Orleans por la fina hospitalidad que se les había prodigado. Invitó a los Miembros del Congreso a visitar Winnipeg, cuando tuvieran una oportunidad de hacerlo.

A continuación habló el Sr. Juan Scasso, Representante Personal del Alcalde de Montevideo, Uruguay. Se expresó en líneas generales en el mismo sentido que los oradores que le precedieron. Que este Congreso trataba de muy grandes e importantes ideales, los que son la intermunicipalidad y el panamericanismo. Que las ciudades de su país habían sido fundadas y planificadas por los primitivos colonizadores españoles y que la Ley de las Indias constituía tan buen código de urbanismo y planificación como jamás pudiera concebir el hombre. Que el origen del gobierno en la América se encuentra en sus ciudades. Que antes de haber naciones en la América, ya habían municipios ampliamente establecidos, y que antes que las naciones fueran naciones, ya las ciudades eran ciudades. Que la voz que surgió de las ciudades de Sur América llevó a la liberación de muchos países que se convirtieron en naciones libres e independientes. Que este Congreso cumple con su deber y constituirá un eslabón más en la cadena de los beneficiosos lazos del panamericanismo. Que en las ciudades hacemos buenas obras como ciudadanos y que la misma palabra ciudadanos, surge de la palabra ciudad. Que todas las naciones qauí representadas abrigan los mismos sentimientos, pues todas hablan el mismo idioma, el idioma de los municipios; que todos queremos aprovechar las ideas y las experiencia de otros, para un mejor entendimiento entre las naciones de América. Que él es un paladín del pan-americanismo y firme creyente en el mismo, y que lo mismo que las aves emigran del Norte hacia el Sur, llevando con ellas el espíritu de los países norteños y cantan la música de ambos continentes uniéndolas en una sola canción, el espíritu del pan-americanismo así florece y pérdura. Terminó expresando sus fervientes deseos por el éxito del Congreso.

Inmediatamente ocupó la tribuna el Sr. Elmer Robinson, Alcalde de San Francisco, California, quien dijo, que aunque no hablaba ni entendía el español, sin embargo, comprendió lo que habían expresado los oradores que lo habían precedido en el uso de la palabra, por la forma y por saber que expresaban las mismas ideas que él sentía; que esta era una gran ocasión, pues sirve para conocernos mejor y esto es lo que realmente le dá valor a los congresos de esta clase. Habla del Centenario de su Ciudad, explica su crecimiento en esos cien

años, en población, en importancia comercial e industrial y la ascendencia de su presupuesto municipal. Que como todas las ciudades del Norte y del Sur, tiene sus problemas, pero que no son pesimistas y los van resolviendo, preparando un mejor nivel de vida para sus ciudadanos, y que como siempre se aprende algo en estas reuniones, para eso está aquí, para aprender de los demás. Que los problemas que afrontan todos los municipios son casi iguales, problemas de habitación, urbanismo, estacionamiento, tránsito, impuestos; que de los ingresos obtenibles queda poco después que se han efectuado las necesarias erogaciones. Se refiere a lo expresado por el Alcalde de Winnipeg y dice que tampoco está aquí buscando comercio, sino para contribuir a este movimiento tan importante, pues gracias a él todos nos beneficiaremos. Quiere que sepan los presentes que su Ciudad tiene los mismos sentimientos de buena voluntad hacia las demás, según aquí se ha expresado y que su Ciudad está lista para cooperar en este gran movimiento intermunicipalista. Hace referencia histórica a San Francisco, diciendo que también tiene antepasados españoles; que hubo 14 alcaldes españoles y que los frailes con sus misiones, han dejado sentir la influencia española. Expresa sus votos por el éxito del Congreso y hace una invitación a sus Miembros a visitar San Francisco.

Después habló el Sr. Juan Ibarra, Presidente de la Delegación de Guatemala, quien dijo que atraídos por la invitación de la noble Ciudad de Nueva Orleans, nos habíamos reunido aquí para aprender mucho; que Guatemala, interesada en los ideales de la intermunicipalidad, no vaciló en asistir al Congreso y que él y todos los Delegados de Guatemala, a los que presentó, estaban dispuestos a cooperar y aprender mucho. Terminó haciendo votos por el éxito del Congreso.

Y finalmente, el Sr. Hoan hizo unos anuncios referentes a los próximos actos del Congreso:

Martes, 2 de Mayo 7:30 p.m.

Banquete en honor de S.E. el Presidente de Chile Gabriel González Videla y Señora, ofrecido por el Alcalde deLesseps S. Morrison y Señora, y por la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios.

Después que la Orquesta hizo oir las notas de los himnos de Chile y los Estados Unidos de América, dió inicio al acto el Maestro de Ceremonias, Sr. Wallace M. Davis.

La invocación estuvo a cargo del Rev. Canon William S. Turner, B. D., Rector de la Iglesia Episcopal de la Trinidad.

A la hora de los brindis, el Honorable Señor deLesseps S. Morrison anunció que había recibido un mensaje del Honorable Señor Presidente de los Estados Unidos de América, que dice:

Mensaje del Presidente Truman.

"Favor expresar mis cordiales saludos al Tercer Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, al Presidente González Videla y a los demás Delegados de las Repúblicas americanas y del Canadá que están tomando parte en las deliberaciones. Felicito al Congreso Interamericano de Municipios por sus esfuerzos para fortalecer y mejorar el gobierno local autónomo en todo el hemisferio como uno de los baluartes de libertad y democracia".

El Sr. Morrison expresó la satisfacción que había experimentado por tan valioso mensaje que constituía un magnífico estímulo para la labor que está realizando la organización interamericana de cooperación intermunicipal. Que al ser electo Alcalde de Nueva Orleans, convencido de la necesidad de que se intensificaran las relaciones de amistad entre los pueblos, dedicó gran parte de sus actividades a esta finalidad, visitando todas las ciudades capitales de América, en las que siempre encontró el mejor espíritu de cordial acogida y que ahora tenía el placer de extender su bienvenida a los Delegados de todos los países de América, que venían a su ciudad para la celebración de este importante Congreso, en el que seguramente se adoptarían acuerdos de gran beneficio para los municipios y se estrecharían esos vínculos de amistosa vecindad. Que era un gran honor para la ciudad tener como huésped al ilustre Presidente de Chile, S. E. Gabriel González Videla, a su señora y a otras distinguidas personalidades, como el Sr. Horacio Walker, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile; el Excmo. Sr. Embajador de dicha República ante la Organización de Naciones Unidas; el Excmo. Sr. Luis Quintanilla, Presidente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos; el Excmo. Sr. Paul C. Daniels, Embajador de los Estados Unidos de América ante la últimamente mencionada Organización; el Sr. Manuel Trucco, Sub-Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile; el Sr. Louis Brownlow, Director General de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal y todos los demás distinguidos huéspedes participantes en la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios.

Que consideraba un alto honor poder ofrecer este homenaje a S. E. el Presidente de Chile Don Gabriel González Videla.

A continuación usó de la palabra dando la bienvenida a todos los presentes, a nombre del Comité de Ciudadanos, su Presidente el Sr. Lloyd J. Cobb.

Habló después el Sr. Louis Brownlow, que repitió que actuaba como Presidente de la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios, por la ausencia involuntaria y sentida del Presidente en propiedad, doctor Antonio Beruff Mendieta.

Dió las gracias al Honorable señor deLesseps S. Morrison por su magnífica hospitalidad y por su bello gesto extendiendo la invitación a la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal para que pudiera tener efecto en esta Ciudad la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios.

Expresó que sentía una gran satisfacción en ofrecer este homenaje a nombre del Congreso a S.E. el Presidente de Chile, Don Gabriel González Videla, porque en todo momento Chile había sido uno de los seguros baluartes de este movimiento, al que nunca se le escatimó el más decidido apoyo.

Mencionó que toda organización requería los servicios de alguien que mantuviera la continuidad de la misma, sobre quien recaían siempre el trabajo diario y los mayores esfuerzos muchas veces anónimos y que la C.P.C.I. había tenido la suerte de encontrar esa persona en el Dr. Carlos M. Morán, Secretario de la misma, a quien tenía el gusto de cederle su lugar en ese momento.

El Dr. Carlos M. Morán, sumamente emocionado vino al micrófono, abrazando efusivamente al señor Brownlow.

Dijo que agradecía profundamente este gesto y las palabras del señor

Brownlow, que más que otra cosa eran el producto del gran afecto que le profesaba y al que él correspondía con cariño filial; que es cierto que ha luchado con toda lealtad y entusiasmo por esta Organización, pero que de nada hubieran valido sus sacrificios, si no hubiera contado con el apoyo extraordinario y decidido de hombres como Louis Brownlow, de tan excepcionales condiciones en todos los aspectos y tan formidable batallador en pro de esta causa de la cooperación municipal internacional; de los demás Miembros de la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, señores: Luis L. Boffi, de la Argentina; Rafael Xavier, de Brasil; Manuel Rodó, de Costa Rica; Ricardo González Cortés, de Chile; Héctor Romero Menéndez, de Ecuador; Daniel W. Hoan, de los Estados Unidos de América; Raphael Brouard, de Haití; y Aurelio Sergio Vieyra, de México, que echaron sobre sus hombros casi todos desde 1938, la difícil tarea de iniciar los pasos de la organización en las diversas regiones de la América; de países como Chile, los Estados Unidos de América, la República Dominicana, Haití, Honduras, Nicaragua, enezuela y Cuba y la Ciudad de La Habana, que en todo momento han brindado su apoyo económico, sin el cual nada hubiera podido hacerse.

Que igualmente era preciso expresar su gratitud a organizaciones como "Public Administration Clearing House" de Chicago, que ha actuado siempre en forma paternal con respecto a la C.P.C.I.; a la Unión Panamericana, con la que siempre se han mantenido las más cordiales relaciones y también al Honorable Señor deLesseps S. Morrison, Alcalde de esta Ciudad, gracias a cuya generosidad y claro sentido del concepto de buena vecindad, se debía la inmensa satisfacción para todos de la celebración de esta III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios.

Que el honor de tener como Presidente de esta III Reunión a S.E. el Sr. Presidente de Chile le hacía recordar, que en el año 1945, encontrándose con el Miembro del Comité Ejecutivo, Arq. Ricardo González Cortés en una oficina de pasajes en Santiago de Chile, entró en la misma el Sr. González Videla, a quien fué presentado por aquél con una clara premonición: "Tengo gusto en presentarte a un buen amigo, el señor Gabriel González Videla, que creo será algún día Presidente de Chile y nos podrá ser muy útil en nuestra labor, porque es un decidido municipalista".

Pasaron los años —dijo el Dr. Morán—, y se cumplió ampliamente la profecía.

Entrega de Diplomas.

Seguidamente el Dr. Morán anunció que "La Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, portavoz de las necesidades e intereses de las comunas de América y promotora del estrechamiento de relaciones entre las mismas a fin de hacer más efectiva la doctrina de la buena vecindad entre nuestros pueblos, más cierta la democracia, mejores los gobiernos y más elevado el nivel de vida de los vecinos dentro de cada municipio, se honra: 1) en testimoniar al Honorable Señor Gabriel González Videla, Presidente de Chile, su reconocimiento por haber prestigiado la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios que se está celebrando en esta Ciudad, presidiendo la sesión inaugural; 2) en vincular sus esfuerzos a los de la Organización de Estados

Americanos y en proclamar a su Presidente, Presidente de Honor de la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal, y 3) en dejar constancia de su reconocimiento a la Ciudad de Nueva Orleans, por su hospitalidad como sede de la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios".

El Dr. Morán hizo solemne entrega de tres bellos pergaminos a S.E. el Presidente de Chile; al Excmo. señor Luis Quintanilla y al Honorable señor deLesseps S. Morrison; contentivos de esas declaraciones.

S.E. el Presidente de Chile, expresó su agradecimiento, ratificó las palabras pronunciadas en la sesión inaugural, felicitó al Sr. deLesseps S. Morrison por su labor de acercamiento entre los pueblos de América, así como a la Ciudad de Nueva Orleans por su progreso y magníficas perspectivas e hizo votos por el éxito de la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios.

Habló el Hon. Sr. Horacio Walker que pronunció un bello discurso.

El acto terminó con la bendición de S.E. el Muy Reverendo Joseph Francis Rummel, S.T.D., Arzobispo de Nueva Orleans.

Miércoles, 3 de Mayo, 6 p.m.

Recepción en la Casa Internacional.

A esta hora comenzó la recepción en la Casa Internacional ofrecida por el Presidente de la Compañía "Celotex" Sr. Mansell y Señora.

Paseos por el Mississippi.

Los días 3 y 4 de mayo, a las 12 m., los Delegados a la III Reunión disfrutaron de paseo y almuerzo en barco por el Río Mississippi, visitando además, la fábrica de "Celotex".

Viernes, 5 de Mayo, 10 a.m.

Visita al Barrio Francés.

Las señoras de los delegados fueron invitadas a una visita al Barrio Francés y a los Estudios de Televisión WDSU-TV, y se les ofreció un almuerzo en el Club Campestre Metairie.

11:45 a.m.

Película de la Avenida Bolívar en Caracas.

Los delegados pudieron admirar los extraordinarios progresos en la construcción de la magnífica Avenida Bolívar, en la ciudad de Caracas, gracias a la exhibición de una instructiva película de la Delegación de Venezuela.

12:30 p.m.

Almuerzo ofrecido por las Organizaciones Cívicas de la Ciudad de Nueva Orleans en honor de los Delegados al Congreso,

Durante este almuerzo que fué presidido por el representante de las municipalidades de Valparaíso y Viña del Mar (Chile), Sr. Augusto Pumarino, hicieron uso de la palabra los siguientes señores:

Sr. C. C. Walter, Presidente del Comité Organizador Local y Presidente de la Cámara de Comercio de Nueva Orleans. Hizo el ofrecimiento del almuerzo a los señores delega-

dos a nombre de las Organizaciones Cívicas de la ciudad. Expresó su satisfacción por ver honrada la ciudad con la presencia de tan distinguidos huéspedes y que temía que la hospitalidad, que había sido ofrecida de todo corazón, ni llegara hasta el máximo a que aspiraban los de Nueva Orleans, para sus vecinos de las demás ciudades de América. Dijo también el Sr. Walter que la ciudad de Nueva Orleans tenía facilidades portuarias, industriales y comerciales que confiaba que debían ser de utilidad para el intercambio con todos los países de la América; que la Casa Internacional, el Mercado Internacional de Comercio, etc. eran instituciones que el alto espíritu de relaciones de los vecinos de Nueva Orleans, habían creado para facilitar el mejor entendimiento entre todos los hombres de este Hemisferio, el señor Walter terminó sus palabras dando las gracias a los delegados por la celebración del Congreso en Nueva Orleans, Congreso que estimaba había sido un éxito y expresando sus deseos de que todos los delegados encontraran muy grata su estancia en esta ciudad y repitieran a menudo su visita a ella.

El Sr. Ernesto McCausland, Alcalde de Barranquilla, Colombia, dió las gracias al Sr. Walter por su ofrecimiento y por la magnífica hospitalidad que tan gentilmente se había ofrecido a los delegados. Expresó que su ciudad tenía cierta semejanza con la de Nueva Orleans, pues estaba a orillas del gran río Magdalena y frente al mar, por lo que existían allí también, del otro lado del Hemisferio, posibilidades como las que ha sabido utilizar e incrementar la ciudad de Nueva Orleans, y que a nombre suyo y de los demás vecinos de Barranquilla, extendía igual invitación a todos para que visitaran su ciudad, donde con toda seguridad serían recibidos con los brazos abiertos en franca demostración de verdadera amistad interamericana.

El Sr. José Mª Bens Arrarte, representante del Colegio Provincial de Arquitectos y del Ayuntamiento de La Habana, pronunció unas muy bellas palabras acerca del espíritu magnífico de la ciudad de Nueva Orleans, en que se mezclan los monumentos y los recuerdos de la época francesa, con la pujanza del poderío de la actual nación americana. Se refirió a las bellezas de la ciudad, hizo una breve comparación de la semejanza de La Habana, con sus calles y arquitecturas coloniales en la parte antigua y lo que se había hecho para tratar de conservar y embellecer esos valiosos recuerdos. Relató su amistad íntima con Ruy de Lugo Viña, a quien se debe el inicio de este movimiento que permitía hoy esta Reunión; dió las gracias por la hospitalidad que se había brindado a los delegados; hizo votos por el éxito del Congreso y manifestó su deseo de que Nueva Orleans pudiera mantener siempre esa tipicidad que le caracteriza y que no fuera dominada por la pujanza de las ideas materiales.

El Sr. José D. Bazán, Alcalde de Colón, Panamá, dijo unas breves palabras de agradecimiento por la hospitalidad que se ha brindado a los delegados, se refirió a los esfuerzos realizados en su país para crear la Asociación de Municipios de Panamá, que trabajaría estrechamente en coordinación con esta Organización, para el logro de la autonomía municipal, el mejoramiento del gobierno y vida de los ciudadanos en los municipios, para terminar diciendo que

su ciudad era también una ciudad internacional, junto al magno Canal de Panamá y que se complacía en extender una cordial invitación a todos para que visitaran Colón y supieran de su hospitalidad.

El Sr. Antonio Pezzolo, representante de la Asociación Brasileira de Municipios, expresó su agradecimiento por todas las atenciones de que habían sido objeto los delegados por las autoridades de la Ciudad y por los funcionarios del Congreso; dijo que se sentía muy satisfecho de haber podido visitar la bella y magnífica ciudad de Nueva Orleans y de asistir a la III Reunión del Congreso Interamericano de Municipios; que en el pasado mes de abril se había celebrado el I Congreso Nacional de Municipios del Brasil, con una representación de más de 1,600 municipios y que él se complacía en ser el portador de un cálido mensaje de simpatía, de amistad y de compenetración de los municipios brasileños para con todos los municipios de este hemisferio; y que las diversas ciudades del Brasil y especialmente la de Santo Andrés, en el Estado de San Pablo, a cuya municipalidad pertenecía y donde el progreso industrial era creciente, los delegados de este Congreso serían recibidos gustosos, con las más amplias demostraciones de amistoso afecto.

El Sr. Manuel R. Villacorta, Jefe del Departamento de Inspección Municipal, del Ministerio del Interior de El Salvador, expresó su agradecimiento por las atenciones de que habían sido objeto los delegados, y significó que aunque su país era un país pequeño y la ciudad de San Salvador también una ciudad pequeña, ello no significaba que las muestras de agradecimiento y el mensaje de cordial salutación que traía para las autoridades y organizaciones de Nueva Orleans y para los delegados al Congreso, fueran menos sentidas, pues nacían espontáneas y sinceras de lo más profundo del alma.

El Sr. Jorge Concha, en representación del Ecuador, abundó en las frases de agradecimiento por la hospitalidad brindada a los delegados, que él conocía muy bien por razón de ser un residente de la Ciudad como Cónsul General de su país.

El Sr. Germán Cruz Ayala, representante del gobierno de la República Dominicana, tuvo frases de elogio para las autoridades de Nueva Orleans y sus organizaciones cívicas, por el interés que demostraban tener por la ciudad y por la gentileza y hospitalidad mostrada a los delegados; destacó el permanente apoyo de su país a la Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal y extendió a todos un cordial mensaje de salutación en su nombre y en el de las autoridades de su país.

El Sr. Augusto Pumarino, que fungía de Presidente, hizo constar que la mesa Presidencial se honraba con la asistencia del Arquitecto Carlos Maruri, Jefe del Departamento de Arquitectura y Urbanismo de la ciudad de La Habana y después de hacer ciertos anuncios con respecto a los próximos actos del Congreso, dió por terminado el almuerzo.

6:30 p.m.

Recepción Final (Buffet Bailable), ofrecida por el Alcalde deLesseps S. Morrison y Sra.

BRASIL

I Congreso Nacional de Municipios Brasileños

Del 2 al 9 de abril de este año, se reunieron en Petrópolis, representantes de los municipios brasileños, con el objeto de celebrar el I Congreso Nacional de Municipios brasileños.

Ante la necesidad de sistematizar los puntos fundamentales de una política municipal nacional, promulgaron la siguiente:

CARTA DE DECLARAÇÃO DE PRINCIPIOS, DIREITOS E REIVINDICAÇÕES MUNICIPAIS

I

Considerando que qualquer tentativa de mudança violenta da ordem jurídica instituída atenta fundamentalmente contra a autonomia municipal, os Governos Municipais, pelos seus poderes constituídos, e' como representantes do povo brasileiro, obrigam-se a consolidar, pelo respeito à Constituição e às Leis, o regime representativo democrático da Federação e da República, mantido pelos Estados Unidos do Brasil.

II

Todos os Municípios Brasileiros são jurídica e politicamente iguais, constituindo a Nação e os Estados, integrados na sua função de defender as tradições e os ideais que vêm presidindo a formação histórica do País e a evolução política da nacionalidade. Neste sentido são considerados atentatórios à autonomia municipal os parágrafos 1º e 2º do Art. 28 da Constituição Federal, cuja supressão se recomenda.

III

1. A autonomia do Município, configurada pelas normas democráticas, consubstancia-se na sua instituição, constituição e organização políticas, concretizando-se:

a) pela eleição direta do Prefeito e dos Vereadores;

b) pela elaboração de suaprópria Lei Orgânica, respeitados os limites constitucionais atinentes à competência Federal e Estadual;

c) pela imunidade dos Vereadores;

d) pela administração própria no que concerne ao seu peculiar interêsse, e especialmente:

—à renda própria oriunda dos tributos de sua competência, bens patrimoniais e serviços, bem como de outras fontes previstas na Constituição e nas Leis;

—à organização dos serviços públicos locais.

2. A efetivação da autonomia assegurada pela Constituição Federal aos Municípios implica justa e ponderada distribuição de encargos e deveres públicos entre as três esferas administrativas da organização da República, acarretando a atual imprecisão de definição de tarefas dificuldades para o exercício dos poderes de Govêrno.

3. Tanto mais produtivos e úteis serão os serviços públicos quanto maior fôr a área de ação e de responsabilidade atribuída ao Município. Não satisfaz, por isso, aos interêsses da coletividade, o modo impreciso e vago por que a Constituição define as funções e serviços municipais, tornando-se indispensável limitar a esfera estadual e definir a área administrativa do Município.

4. A solução dos problemas político-administrativos locais, ligados diretamente à estrutura social-econômica dos Municípios, fundamenta o exercício das prerrogativas de autonomia municipal.

5. O desenvolvimiento político do país depende essencialmente do progresso da democracia municipal, caracterizada esta pelo integral acatamento dos princípios jurídico-administrativos consagrados pela Constituição Federal em relação ao Município, bem assim pela garantia das liberdades públicas.

6. Necessitam os Municípios de autonomia e capacidade de ação em tal grau que sejam suficientes para fazer que todos os cidadãos integrantes da comuna experimentem o sentimento saudável de responsabilidade pelos males que padecem e adquiram a convicção de que o exercício dos seus direitos e deveres de cidadãos lhes oferce meio eficaz para os sanar.

7. Recomendam os Municípios brasileiros a laboração de uma lei complementar federal, naqual se regulamenten, atendidos os princípios desta declaração, os dispositivos gerais da Constituição e da legislação ordinária da União concernentes ao Município.

IV

1. Os Municípios Brasileiros reconhecem e proclamam as vantagens da cooperação interadministrativa, recomendando-a como fórmula mais adequada à solução dos problemas de interêsse comum dos diferentes niveis de govêrno que constituem as organizações políticas de natureza federativa. A União, os Estados e os Municípios deverão unir seus esforços e recursos, mediante acordos, convênios ou contratos multilaterais, para a solução de problemas de interêsse geral, principalmente os relacionados com a educação, saúde, agricultura e transportes.

2. Considera-se de importância fundamental para o planejamento e a execução de serviços públicos, cuja repercussão e valor econômico transcendam das possibilidades de uma única administração municipal, a realização de agrupamentos de Municípios de uma mesma região geo-econômica, de modo a tornar possível, mediante a cooperação intergovernamental, a solução de problemas de interêsse comum às respectivas administrações.

3. O recurso à cooperação interadministrativa, através da constituição de consórcios municipais, é aconselhado para a solução dos problemas relacionados com a execução dos seguintes serviços públicos, cuja instalação e funcionamento exigem, via de regra, verbas superiores à capacidade financeira dos Municípios, de per si considerados: energia elétrica, telefonia, abastecimiento dágua, esgotos e saneamento, fomento da produção e encaminhamento de gêneros alimentícios aos mercados de consumo locais, vias d transporte, desenvolvimento cultural, saúde pública e crédito e financiamento.

Aconselham-se em complemento, para maior facilidade de instituição dos convênios ou resolução dos problemas locais:

a) empréstimo, a ser efetuado pelos Municípios, dos recursos necessários à construção ou ampliação, por sua própria conta, de usinas geradoras de energia elétrica e de centros telefônicos;

b) aquisição, por Municípios associados e para fins de aluguel, de máquinas e outros equipamentos agrícolas, com o prévio adestramento do pessoal necessário ao respectivo manejo;

c) criação e manutenção, mediante contribuição dos Municípios consorciados, de escolas normais rurais, ginásios, escolas profissionais, escolas agrícolas e quaisquer outros estabelecimentos de ensino especializado exigidos pelo meio;

d) instituição de bolsas de estudos para que médicos se especializem em tisiologia, realização do censo torácico da população em idade escolar e vacinação compulsória pelo B.C.G.;

e) realização, com o concurso dos Municípios agrupados, de intensa campanha anti-tuberculosa, dirigida à população, em geral, mas concentrada, em particular, nos estabelecimentos de ensino;

f) instalação, para atender à população residente na área abrangida pelos Municípios consorciados, de hospitais, parques sanatoriais e ambulatórios contra a tuberculose;

g) criação, sob a foma cooperativa, e de modo a utilizar recursos não só dos Municípios mas também de particulares, de bancos regionais, destinados, possivelmente, a servir de base a um futuro instituto de crédito municipal.

4. A forma adequada à constituição dos consórcios intermunicipais é a celebração de convênios, acordos e contratos, por parte dos Gobernos interessados, permitida, se conveniente, a participação do respectivo Estado ou Território. Do instrumento convencional constarão as finalidades de acôrdo e os preceitos normativos fundamentais à constituição e ao funcionamento do consórcio.

Competirá às Câmaras de Vereadores dos Municípios congregados a ratificação dos convênios, sòmente cabendo fazê-lo à Assembléia Legislativa quando o Estado dêles participar e na parte que disser respeito aos compromissos, encargos e benefícios da administração estadual.

A direção e a execução do empreendimento que originou o acôrdo serão confiadas a tantos representantes quantos forem os Municípios pactuantes e, igualmente, ao Estado, quando fôr o caso, sem embargo da fiscalização direta dos poderes públicos interessados.

5. A cooperação entre os Municípios poderá ser aconselhável, ainda, quando a execução dos convênios, acordes ou contratos sugerir a criação de organizações de fins econômicos. A vinculação se completará, assim, pelo interêsse nos resultados econômicos do empreendimento, do qual poderão participar pessoas físicas ou jurídicas.

6. É recomendado o integral apoio dos Municípios aos convênios em vigor que hajam sido firmados obedientemente aos princípios de cooperação interadministrativa. Destacam-se, entre êstes, pela sua compatibilidade com a ordem política vigente e o amplo recurso à cooperação intergovernamental, além de consagrarem a fórmula mais eficaz para a execução de um serviço público de interêsse local, os Convenios firmados com o Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística, órgão a cuja colaboração se deve, em parcela apreciável, o êxito do I Congresso Nacional dos Municípios Brasileiros.

V

O que a Constituição consagra como de peculiar interêsse dos Municípios envolve atividades relacionadas a todos os aspectos da vida dos cidadãos, abrangendo não apenas os serviços públicos atualmente de responsabilidade dos Prefeitos e das Câmaras, como os de água, esgôto e eletricidade, senão ainda a assistência social, a educação, a polícia, a justiça, a viação, a saúde pública, a pro-

dução e o crédito. Seria necessário, para a perfeita eficiência dêsses serviços, que correspondem a atividades concomitantemente de interêsse da Nação, do Estado e do Município, participasse a comuna de sua efetivação, para o melhor atendimento das necessidades das populações locais.

Entendem-se como características de benefício de ordem rural, para fins do estabelecido no § 4º do art. 15 da Constituição Federal, as despesas realizadas com a execução de obras ou a prestação de serviços que atendam às necessidades de natureza coletiva da zona rural, sem obrigar, contudo, os munícipes ao pagamento de cualquer impôsto, taxa ou contribuição especial pelo gôzo de tais benefícios.

VII

O turismo, como atividade governamental, deve ter os seus problemas resolvidos com base nos princípios de cooperação interadministrativa, visto como o movimento provocado pelos centros turísticos dá lugar à ocorrência de diversos fatos que podem interessar a mais de um govêrno, local ou estadual. É preciso, por isso, o estudo dos problemas turísticos em conjunto, ou, pelo menos, por parte das estâncias hidroterápicas e climáticas, estações balneárias e cidades históricas, bem assim a destinação de recursos especiais para a valorização de tais centros.

VIII

O combate ao êxodo rural e as medidas tendentes a fixar o homem à terra, têm como campo, por definição, o Município. Deve-se reconhecer a êste, por conseguinte, o direito a participar de planejamento dos providências referidas e de concorrer, cooperativamente, para a solução do problema, tendo em conta suas peculiaridades.

IX

Os Municípios poderão cooperar, com reais vantagens, na fiscalização de leis federais de interêsse local, tais como, por exemplo, os Códigos Florestal e de Caça e Pesca, bem assim acompanhar os trabalhos de repartições federais ou estaduais nêles sediades, para fins de verificação do cumprimento dos respectivos encargos. Devem ser promovidas as medidas de ordem administrativa ou legislativa necessárias àquele fim.

X

1. As bases de organização de assistência e previdência social brasileira devem ser modificadas, de modo que os mesmos benefícios, direitos, garantias e obrigações sejam atribuídos ou exigidos dos segurados, qualquer que seja a entidade à qual estejam vinculados.

Os benefícios de assistência e previdência sociais devem ser estendidos, dentro de curto prazo, às populações das zonas rurais do país. Faz-se necessário, igualmente, amparar os servidores municipais de forma condigna, revogando-se as disposições de lei que por ventura não permitam essa providência.

Impõe-se a implantação, como medida complementar da organização de assistência social, dos sistemas de seguro-desemprêgo, conforme previsto na Constituição.

A fim de melhor atender às reais condições de vida no país, deveria ser fixado em, pelo menos, quatro mil cruzeiros o limite máximo para base das contribuições dos segurados em instituições de previdencia.

2. Sob o ponto de vista do interêsse especificamente municipal, são reconhecidas essenciais as seguintes providências, cuja promoção imediata pelas instituições de previdência e assistência social é exigida pelas populações locais:

a) instalação, nos Municípios onde o número de beneficiários de cada instituição fôr pequeno, de serviços médicos comuns a todos os segurados locais, mantidos mediante a cooperação financeira das diferentes entidades,

b) inversão das reservas da previdência não apenas no mercado de imóveis dos grandes centros urbanos, mas também no dos pequenos centros municipais, como contribuição à solução do problema da moradia;

c) contribuição das instituições para a melhoria de alimentação do povo, mediante financiamento quer de restaurantes populares, quer de cooperativas agrícolas municipais e de produtores de gêneros alimentícios;

d) aplicação de parte das reservas da previdência, segundo bases de auto-amortização, a juros mínimos e prazos longos, em empreendimentos locais, inclusive fomento agro-pecuário, bem assim na concessão de empréstimos aos contribuintes;

e) descentralização administrativa dos serviços de assistência e previdência, de modo a facilitar os contactos entre a instituição e o segurado e a garantir maior rapidez na concessão dos benefícios;

f) aplicação, no Município em que se originou ou em grupo de Municípios vizinhos, de, pelo menos, 50% da arrecadação de cada instituição de previdência e assistência social.

3. É dever das instituições de previdência e assistência prestar informações aos órgãos do Poder Público —da União, Estados, Territórios e Municípios.

4. A liquidação do débito da União e de alguns Estados para com as instituições de previdência e assistência social é providência imperiosa, a fim de possibilitar que os Municípios sejam mais bem atendidos em suas necessidades e, principalmente, de evitar o aniquilamento do sistema de seguro social brasileiro.

XI

As instituições autárquicas ou paraestatais de defesa e fomento de produção devem ter suas sedes transferidas para as regiões de maior ocorrência, extração ou fabricação dos produtos a que correspondem suas atribuições, a fim de que, pelo contacto direto com os problemas, se capacitem melhor para o desempenho dos respectivos encargos. A transferência recomendada deve completar-se pela descentralização executiva, de modo que a atividade protetora eu de fomento se manifeste em todos os Municípios interessados.

XII

Há órgãos na administração pública do país, criados sob o regime da Carta de 1937, que ainda exercem as mesmas atribuições que lhes foram deferidas no regime de extrema centralização político-administrativa então vigente. As atividades dêsses órgãos não se harmonizam com o direito que a Constituição Federal dá ao Município de deliberar, com autonomia, sobre aquilo que concerne ao seu peculiar interêsse.

XIII

1. Os Municípios reconhecem o sentido municipalista da Constituição Federal de 18 de setembro de 1946, reclamando, todavia, o integral cum-

primento de suas disposições relativas à discriminação ou distribuição de rendas.

2. Os Municípios reivindicam, paralelamente ao acréscimo de recursos, a responsabilidade de novos encargos, que lhes seriam transferidos juntamente com as rendas que ora mantêm os respectivos serviços nos orçamentos da União e dos Estados.

É encarecida a imediata transferência aos Municípios, por parte dos Estados, do impôsto territorial rural, tal como faculta o art. 29 da Constituição Federal e sem prejuizo de ulterior reforma que consigne a medida em caráter definitivo.

3. Reivindicam ainda os Municípios, como solução mediata, a reforma constitucional que lhes permita, dentro de prazo razoável e progressivamente, a percepção de pelo menos, 40% das rendas públicas arrecadadas no país, quer mediante outorga de novos tributos, quer pela maior participação nas rendas federais e estaduais.

4. Os Municípios pleiteiam o recebimento de pelo menos metade da quota percentual (60%) do fundo rodoviário nacional que cabe aos Estados, Territórios e Municípios, incluindo-se a importância correspondente como receita nos seus orçamentos.

Como elemento básico do acréscimo de participação no fundo rodoviário, devem os Municípios elaborar um plano das inter-ligações rodoviarias municipais, cuja execução ficaria a seu cargo.

A entrega das quotas percentuais do fundo rodoviário nacional aos Municípios deve ser feita diretamente pelo Departamento Nacional de Estradas de Rodagem, por intermédio das Coletorias Federais e Agências do Banco do Brasil, ou por quaisquer outros meios locais mais próximos, ficando a cargo exclusivamente dos órgãos legislativos municipais a fiscalização de sua aplicação.

5. Os Municípios pleiteiam junto ao Congresso Nacional, sem prejuizo da legislação supletiva a ser baixada pelos Estados, a regulamentação do art. 20 da Constituição Federal. Reconhecem, ainda, a conveniência de que a referida Lei Complementar consagre, entre outras providências, as seguintes:

a) normas relativas à determinação do total da renda estadual atribuida a cada Município no caso do impôsto de vendas e consignações e de outros tributos cuja arrecadação apresente dúvidas na sua distribuição geográfica;

b) fixação de um conceito restritivo da expressão "rendas locais de qualquer natureza";

c) estabelecimento de sanções contra os Estados que neguem cumprimento a essa Lei.

6. É reconhecida, também, a necessidade da imediata regulamentação do art. 15, No. III, § 2º da Constituição Federal, na parte relativa aos minérios e à energia elétrica, a fim de que os Municípios interessados possam usufruir as vantagens tributárias correspondentes.

Aos Municípios, nos quais se realiza a extração do minério ou é consumida a energia elétrica, deve ficar asegurado o recebimento de, no mínimo, cinqüenta por cento (50%) da arrecadação do impôsto sôbre minério ou energia elétrica, respectivamente. A arrecadação do tributo ou, pelo menos, da quota municipal deve ser feita diretamente pelas Prefeituras interessadas.

7. O Congresso, considerando vital aos interêsses dos Municípios a entrega das quotas que lhes são devidas por fôrça de dispositivo constitucional, recomenda aos governos

locais o recurso ao Poder Judiciário para obtenção do recebimento das aludidas quotas. Reconhece, do mesmo passo, os mais altos propósitos municipalistas dos Governos que vêm cumprindo aquêles preceitos constitucionais, o que os torna merecedores de confiança e apoio moral.

É feito um apêlo aos Estados impossibilitados de efetuar o pagamento integral das quotas constitucionais, no sentido de não usar tratamento discriminatório em relação a quaisquer Municípios.

Para melhor atender às necessidades administrativas locais é de tôda a conveniência que o pagamento aos Municípios da quota-parte de impôsto sôbre a renda se faça integralmente de uma só vez, durante o terceiro trimestre de cada ano, devendo ser reconhecido o direito exclusivo das Câmaras Municipais quanto à fiscalização do respectivo emprêgo.

8. Constituem apreciável manifestação da cooperação governamental os auxílios e subvenções concedidos aos Municípios e a entidades privadas nêles sediadas. Para que tais recursos possam ser empregados proveitosamente, faz-se necessário que a sua entrega não sofra outras restrições que não aquelas indispensáveis a assegurar a sua fiel aplicação.

As verbas consignadas no orçamento da União para emprêgo nos Municípios, deveriam ser entregues, no que diz respeito às atribuições dos governos municipais, diretamente a êstes, mediante acordos, quando fôr o caso, entre os Poderes interessados.

9. Os Municípios pleiteiam o recebimento mensal, diretamente das Exatorias Federais, de 50% da arrecadação local feita soba rubrica do sêlo de "Educação e Saúde", cujo montante será aplicado na solução de problemas de assistência social.

10. Deve ser da competência exclusiva do Município a taxa ou impôsto de turismo, a ser cobrado nas localidades de reconhecida significação histórica ou classificadas como estâncias hidroterápicas ou climáticas, destinando-se a respectiva receita ao embelezamento das mesmas localidades e à conservação de suas atrações turísticas.

XIV

1. Os Municípios brasileiros proclamam a necessidade da elaboração de um Código Tributário Nacional, em que se fixem as normas gerais a serem observadas e complementadas como medida indispensável à consolidação, pelas três esferas governamentais, das reivindicações municipalistas, através de nítida delimitação dos campos de competência e de obediência às diretrizes básicas de uma política tributária definida em plano nacional. Convém, pois, sejam suspensas as discussões em tôrno de projetos de Códigos Tributários Estaduais, ora em andamento nas Assembléias Legislativas.

É recomendada a imediata Convocação da II Conferência Nacional de Legislação Tributária.

2. Constitui aspiração municipalista a ser lograda em tempo futuro a instituição do Município como arrecadador único.

XV

1. Os Municípios brasileiros reconhecem a necessidade do planejamento e consideram-no, como ponderável fator de bem estar, segurança e progresso geral, indispensável à melhor participação da administração municipal nas atividades econômicas, sociais e culturais desenvolvidas em benefício da comunidade local.

A ausência de planejamento bem elaborado reduz a capacidade econômica dos Municípios e compromete o êxito de providências destinadas a assegurar aos munícipes estabilidade social, ao mesmo tempo que agrava, consideràvelmente, a situação de precariedade em que se encontra a maioria dos povoados, vilas, cidades e Municípios brasileiros.

Constitui o planejamento elemento de modernização e aperfeiçoamento da administração local, e, através de sua elaboração, torna-se possível aos Municípios promoverem melhor utilização, dos recursos humanos, naturais e institucionais da comunidade.

Nesse sentido, todos os Municípios devem proceder a rigoroso levantamento, que, como preliminar básica à elaboração de um plano para a solução dos problemas locais, compreende não somente os exames e providências vinculados à melhoria do padrão de vida das populações, mas também os estudos pertinentes à exploração, aproveitamento, conservação e fomento da produção de recursos minerais, florestais, agro-pecuários e industriais.

2. Na elaboração de Planos Diretores, deve-se ter em vista a conveniência de atender-se às necessidades comuns dos Municípios vizinhos, bem assim o estabelecimento de providências que assegurem:

a) a regulamentação dos loteamentos urbanos, de modo a garantir-lhes condições mínimas quanto a facilidade de acesso, existência de melhoramentos públicos e reserva de áreas destinadas a parques e escolas;

b) o reflorestamento, como fator essencial à proteção do solo e dos mananciais;

c) a instituição de regime fiscal que evite a atrofia das iniciativas econômicas;

d) a participação obrigatória de administração nos emprrendimentos de defesa da saúde pública, de combate às pragas e moléstias dos vegetais e animais, com especial interêsse para a manutenção de serviço permanente de combate a saúva e a outras formigas cortadeiras, e das práticas recreativas, mesmo quando de iniciativa privada; na construção de campos esportivos e parques infantis e em assuntos urbanísticos, com a cooperação dos departamentos especializados do Estado;

e) à difusão cultural, em cooperação com os particulares e depois de preparado corpo especializado de servidores, por meio, principalmente, de conselhos escolares, bibliotecas, teatro, rádio, imprensa, e mediante facilidades tributárias à indústria e ao comércio de livros.

XVI

A participação da administração municipal nas atividades econômicas, sociais e culturais da comunidade deve visar, precipuamente, à elevação da capacidade econômica do Município, através de elementos capazes de fixarem e estabilizarem a população em seu próprio ambiente. Consideram-se indispensáveis providências que contribuam para semelhante objetivo, cumprindo às Municipalidades promoverem:

a) a conjugação de esforços no sentido de serem concedidas facilidades para o desenvolvimento de indústrias, divulgando-se as condições próprias do Município, de maneira a atrair capitais, e incentivando-se as

explorações agropecuárias já existentes ou que venham a organizar-se;

b) o estabelecimento de postos agropecuários ou de outros serviços de fomento e assistência à população rural, e a cooperação na manutenção dos já existentes, criados pelo Ministério da Agricultura ou governos estaduais;

c) a criação de escolas regionais, ou patronatos para menores, de tipo variável, de acôrdo com as atividades econômicas da região;

d) a exploração rural como meio de desenvolvimento econômico, e não como fonte de rendas públicas, facilitando-se a aquisição, pelo preço de custo, não só de materiais de exploração agrícola, sementes selecionadas e máquinas agrícolas, como também da pequena propriedade;

e) o aproveitamento das terras do patrimônio nacional, estadual ou municipal, dando-se preferência aos habitantes das zonas empobrecidas e aos desempregados, na forma prevista no art. 156 da Constituição Federal;

f) o estímulo à criação de cooperativas de produção, consumo e crédito, que visem a possibilitar aos lavradores meios de financiamento de seus produtos e facilidades de armazenamento, bem assim a instituição de associações rurais, com finalidades econômicas e de atuação social;

g) a criação e manutenção de serviços nas vilas e nas sedes dos subdistritos, quando os houver, ou dos povoados, incumbindo a êsses serviços quer a fiscalização da arrecadação municipal e auxílio à fiscalização estadual, quer a execução de atividades sociais e culturais benéficas à população local;

h) a colaboração com os órgãos federais, estaduais ou particulares na instituição de Colônias-Escolas, Colônias Agrícolas ou Núcleos Coloniais, principalmente nas áreas mais prejudicadas pela existência de latifúndios e na vedação do aliciamento, por elementos estranhos, de trabalhadores rurais;

i) o incentivo aos festejos populares, promovidos por grupos organizados ou que venham a organizar-se, para a realização em público e gratuitamente dos folguedos tradicionais do folclore regional, inclusive com a concessão de facilidades e a dispensa do pagamento de tributos;

j) a instalação, com a cooperação dos particulares, de pequenos museus de mineralogia, com o objetivo de incrementar o conhecimento das riquezas do país e o intercâmbio de exemplares entre o público e o Departamento Nacional de Produção Mineral;

l) o levantamento da população em idade escolar, em colaboração com as autoridades estaduais, com o objetivo de possibilitar melhor administração do ensino a cargo das Municipalidades e mais profícua aplicação dos recursos destinados a tais fins;

m) a organização e manutenção, mediante destaque de recursos da quota destinada ao ensino e à educação pública, de parques infantis, onde as crianças, especialmente as das classes menos favorecidas, recebam a necessária educação e assistência;

n) a promoção, sobretudo pelos Municípios mais atingidos pelas conseqüências do êxodo rural, das me-

didas indispensáveis à colonização das áreas de terras devolutas dos seus territórios, sob sua exclusiva responsabilidade ou com o auxílio dos órgãos especializados de Govêrno Federal;

o) a importação direta da maquinaria necessária à execução dos seus serviços, pleiteando-se a efetivação dos dispositivos constitucionais relativos à imunidade tributária e à extensão destas às próprias taxas que incidem sôbre a entrada de mercaderias;

p) a criação de cursos de educação municipal, nos quais, de par com a instrução fundamental comum, sejam ministradas noções de higiene e de geografia e história do Município;

q) a admissão para as escolas municipais preferentemente de professôres formados e que possam não só difundir conhecimentos de higiene como ainda promover divertimentos educativos nos núcleos onde trabalharem;

r) a incorporação, pelos Municípios de cada região, de estabelecimentos de crédito especial para atender às respectivas necessidades financeiras e constituir a base para implantação e desenvolvimento do crédito pessoal;

s) a racionalização da administração municipal, mediante reforma dos processos de trabalho e criação dos órgãos técnicos necesários.

XVII

Os tributos municipais arrecadados nos Distritos devem ser nos mesmos aplicados, tanto quanto possível, depois de deduzidas as parcelas destinadas a atender às despesas de administração geral.

XVIII

O 1º Congresso Nacional dos Municípios Brasileiros assinala, finalmente, que entre as diversas providências favoráveis ao atendimento das necessidades e exigências dos respectivos munícipes e que possibilitariam ao Govêrno local, do mesmo passo, o efetivo exercício das atribuições que lhe são próprias, se destacam:

a) o encaminhamento imediato ao Congresso Nacional e transformação em Lei dentro de curto prazo, das conclusões da III Conferência de Técnicos em Contabilidade Pública e Assuntos Fazendários, para que, consolidando a obra de padronização orçamentária, venham a ter cumprimento, em todo o território nacional, concomitantemente pela União, os Estados e os Municípios;

b) a regulamentação imediata dos incisos constitucionais relativos à água e energia elétrica, a fim de ser definitivamente reconhecida, em lei ordinária, a competência que tem sôbre o assunto o Município, de conformidade com o disposto no art. 28, combinado com o art. 5, No. XV, letra *l* e artigos 151 e 153 da Constituição Federal;

c) a suspensão, pelo Govêrno Federal, de tôdas as revisões de tarifas sôbre fornecimento de fôrça e luz aos Municípios, até que o Congresso Nacional vote a lei especial reguladora do regime de concessão de serviços públicos, na forma da Constituição vigente;

d) o reexame da divisão das regiões administrativas das Unidades da Federação, com o objetivo de torná-la mais condizente com a realida-

de, equipando-se cada sede regional de recursos indispensáveis à execução dos principais serviços públicos, de modo a possibilitar a participação de representantes dos Poderes Legislativo e Executivo dos Municípios interessados em conselhos que orientem os trabalhos na respectiva região;

e) a realização decenal do Recenseamento Geral da República, para cujo êxito se recomenda todo o apoio e colaboração do Govêrno e das populações municipais.

f) a concessão de major amparo financeiro ao pequeno agricultor, pelos estabelecimentos de crédito de que participem os Poderes Públicos e pelas entidades autárquicas, de sorte a facilitar os empréstimos para fins econômicos e a reduzir as taxas de juros;

g) a unificação e simplificação dos serviços de imigração e colonização bem como regionalização e zoneamento dos mesmos, de modo a atender a peculiaridades locais e regionais;

h) a localização racional dos serviços de assistência técnica à agricultura, para mais eficiente amparo ao pequeno agricultor;

i) a extinção, por serem pràticamente inoperantes, das Comissões de Preços instituídas junto aos Governos Federal, Estaduais e Municipais;

j) a liberação completa dos bens pertencentes aos súditos das nações que estiveram em guerra com o Brasil;

l) a intensificação, pelos órgãos competentes, da construção de casas populares, com obediência a um plano que beneficie tôdas as cidades do país;

m) a criação de cursos intensivos e práticos de direito e ciência de administração municipais, junto aos estabelecimentos de ensino adequado;

n) o desenvolvimento, pelos Poderes Públicos e instituições privadas, de intensa propaganda educativa contra o alcoolismo;

o) o financiamento aos Municípios, pelo Banco do Brasil ou outros estabelecimentos de crédito em que haja participação do Poder Público, a título de empréstimo e com garantia, na base mínima de 80% das quotas do Fundo Rodoviário Nacional;

p) a inclusão de um representante da Associação Brasileira dos Municípios nos Conselhos de Estradas de Rodagem;

q) a entrega imediata, por parte dos Governos Estaduais, das quotas do Fundo Rodoviário Nacional, ainda retidas em poder dos Departamentos e Comissões Estaduais de Estradas de Rodagem;

r) a audiência dos poderes municipais nos processos de concessão de linhas inter-municipais de transporte coletivo.

XIX

Os Prefeitos e Vereadores reunidos no I Congresso Nacional dos Municípios Brasileiros se comprometem a pleitear a inscrição das conclusões a que chegaram nos programas de seus partidos políticos e a reivindicar, por intermédio dos representantes locais que vierem a ser eleitos, a sua efetivação posterior.

XX

A Associação Brasileira dos Municípios, órgão oficial das municipalidades do país, fica delegada expressamente a competência necessária, junto aos Poderes Públicos e instituições particulares, para a efetivação das providências indispensáveis à concretização da presente Carta de Declaração.

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ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA

Toma de Posesión del Alcalde de Nueva Orleans

Con motivo de la toma de posesión para un nuevo período alcaldicio del Hon. deLesseps S. Morrison, el lunes 1º, de mayo se realizó una interesante parada, en la que participaron los Delegados a la III Reunión del C.I.M., en diversos automóviles, desplegando las banderas de las veintiuna repúblicas de América y del Dominio del Canadá.

Esta parada recorrió diversas calles hasta llegar al Palacio Municipal, frente al cual y al aire libre se celebró la ceremonia de toma de posesión.

Después de la bendición religiosa y del juramento de ritual, el Sr. deLesseps S. Morrison pronunció un magnífico discurso, analizando la obra realizada en los años anteriores de su gobierno y señalando algunos de los planes y proyectos a realizar en su próximo período.

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Third Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities

From April 30th to May 5th, 1950, the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities which had been convened by the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, was held in the City of New Orleans, on the kind invitation of Mr. De Lesseps S. Morrison, Mayor of that City.

In spite of the difficulties encountered in view of the scarcity of dollars in the Central and South American countries, representatives of all the countries of America and the Dominion of Canada, with the exception of the Republic of Costa Rica from which country the Governor of San Jose had been expected to attend and who found it imposible to be with us, attended the meeting.

The holding of this meeting coincided with the inauguration for a second term of office on May 1st of mister Morrison as Mayor of the City and was specially honored by the presence of the Honorable the President of the Republic of Chile, Mr. Gabriel Gonzalez Videla who presided over the inaugural Plenary Session, of the President of the Organization of American States, Ambassador from Mexico before that Organization, His Excellency Mr. Luis Quintanilla, of the Ambassador of the United States of America before that Organization, His Excellency Mr. Paul C. Daniels and of Mr. Paul R. Kelbaugh, Chief of the Division of Organizations and Conferences of the Pan American Union, all of whom attended as observers and collaborated with great interest and a high spirit of cooperation during all the sessions of the meeting.

Great significance is also attached to the presence of several national governments represented by Delegates authorized to discuss and approve the new Statutes of the Organization.

The opening address of His Excellency Mr. Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, President of Chile, of a pure municipalistic character and the messages of the Honorable the President of the United States of America, Mr. Harry S. Truman, from the Department of State of that Nation and from the Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada, are frank testimony of the importance and value of the movement of intermunicipal cooperation in the Western Hemisphere. A cordial message was also received from the International Union of Local Authorities.

From a social viewpoint, the large number of magnificent events organized by different organizations, giving evidence of the splendid hospitality of New Orleans, allowed the Delegates to become acquainted with one another and fraternize in an atmosphere of the most genuine and simple cordiality with the society and the active sectors of that progressive city.

The press and the radio services gave considerable attention and a great deal of publicity to all the activities of the meeting.

The approval of the new Statutes of the Inter-American Municipal Organization and the resolutions adopted of a general nature as well as in connection with the papers presented and the discussions that took place during the technical working sessions on the four subjects selected for this meeting, viz: 1) Relations between muni-

cipalities and Central Governments, specially of a financial nature; 2) Housing and Municipalities, or the functions of the municipalities in the solution of the housing problems; 3) City Planning; and 4) Traffic Problems in Cities-Suggestions for their Solution, as these appear in the Final Act, are very good proof of the interest with which the work was carried on in the short space of time available for this purpose.

The number of invitations received for the holding of the Fourth Meeting in the year 1952, serve as a very stimulating index of the brilliant future of the municipal movement in this hemisphere.

In order that all persons or entities that for one reason or another were unable to attend this meeting may have a good idea of the way in which the same was carried on, we will show in this report, its different events.

SESSIONS OF THE P. A. C. I. C.

Saturday, April 29th, 4:00 p.m.

The Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation met with the atendance of Messrs. Louis Brownlow, Director General who acted as Chairman, Herbert Emmerich, assisted by Mr. John J. Kennedy, Daniel W. Hoan, Jose M. Cuellar and the Secretary, Dr. Carlos Moran.

The Chairman stated that he occupied the Chair as Director General in view of the fact that Dr. Antonio Beruff Mendieta had been unable to attend.

The Secretary reported that the other members, Messrs. Luis L. Boffi, Hector Romero Menendez, Manuel Rodó, Raphael Brouard and the Mayor of Havana, had advised that they were unable to attend for different reasons. That Mr. Ricardo Gonzalez Cortés had delegated in Mr. Abel Gutierrez, who had not arrived as yet, that the Mayor of Havana had delegated in the undersigned and that Professor Xavier had also failed to arrive.

The Secretary also introduced mister Jose M. Cuellar, Secretary of the Municipal Government of Bogotá and read the communication from the General Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Colombia, dated April 25th, in which the Secretariat is advised that Mr. José Manuel Cuellar had been designated by the Mayor of the City of Bogotá as his Personal Representative on the Commission and that in that capacity Mr. Cuellar would attend its sessions. The Secretary explained that Mr. Cuellar would take the place of Dr. Ruben A. Garcia who had passed away.

The Chairman, in the name of all of the members greeted Mr. Cuellar and expresed the pleasure of everyone for his presence at the meeting ordering that the communication be placed in the files and that the Secretariat acknowledge receipt of the same and express the appreciation of the Commission to the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Colombia, and to the Mayor of the City of Bogotá for this valuable collaboration.

The Chairman submitted the draft Regulations prepared by the Secretariat for the meetings of the Inter-American Congresses of Municipalities to the consideration of the Commission, the same having been approved as follows:

Regulations for the Meetings of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities

Purposes.

Article I.—The Inter-American Congress of Municipalities formulates its policy and the general principles of intermunicipal cooperation in all their aspects and in relation to the subjects or matters which appear on the agenda and determines the structure of the organization and the function of its parts.

Meetings.

Article II.—The Inter-American Congress of Municipalities will meet from time to time, every two years, on the date set by the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation or its Executive Committee after having consulted with the city that has offered to be the seat of the Congress, and with the Advisory Council of the Organization.

Article III.—Each Inter-American Congress of Municipalities will fix the seat for the next congress, if for any later reason the Congress cannot meet at that seat, the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation will make the new selection of its seat.

Article IV.—The agenda and the regulations of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities will be drafted by the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation.

Members.

Article V.—All the States and all the municipalities of America are entitled to representation on the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities. The national organizations of municipalities, the universities and schools dealing with matters related to municipal life and the professional associations of the same nature may also be represented therein, and the members of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation and of its national delegations will also take part therein, in their own right.

Credentials Committee.

The President and the Secretary of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, consulting with the President and Secretary of the Local Organization Committee of the Congress, will designate the persons who shall receive and examine the credentials of the persons who have appeared as delegates to the Congress, for the purpose of reporting to the Congress which reserves the right to accept or reject the respective credentials, in accordance with preestablished principles and rules for each case.

Officers of the Congress.

Article VI.—The election of the President shall be made of a municipal authority or official of the city that is the seat of the Congress that is being held.

At each meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities several Vice-Presidents may be appointed to preside over the different sessions of the Congress as temporary Vice-Presidents whose offices lapse at the conclusion of the sessions.

For the purpose of filling the office of President of the Congress, should

the office be vacant, one of the appointed Vice-Presidents shall be chosen to act in turn, by drawings held for that purpose.

Article VII.—On the Executive Committee of the organization there will be a delegate of the municipalities of the country in which the last Inter-American Congress of Municipalities, prior to the one that is being held, who will be designated by the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation during the meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities, in the same manner as the President.

Article VIII.—The President of the Inter-American Municipal Organization will preside over the inaugural session of the Congress unless for reasons of courtesy he decides to assign the presidency to another person, and he shall continue to preside over the same until his successor has been elected by a majority vote, on the proposal of the Nominations Committee which will be the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation.

Article IX.—The General Secretariat of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities will be in charge of the Permanent General Secretary who is elected by the Congress on the proposal of the Executive Committee of the Organization.

He shall be assisted in his duties by the personnel of the Permanent Secretariat and of the Local Organizing Committee of the Congress.

Proceedings of the Congress.

Article X.—The Advisory Council will meet on the dates on which the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities meets and will be presided over by the President of the Organization, for the purpose of:

a) Formulating and submitting to the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities propositions tending to strengthen the Inter-American Municipal Organization and recommendations which tend to coordinate the activities of its organs.

b) Rendering its report on the draft annual budget of expenditures of the Inter-American Municipal Organization presented by the General Secretariat.

c) Determining, on consultation with the respective governments and in view of the amount of estimated expenditures, the bases for fixing the quota with which each of the governments shall contribute to the maintenance of the Inter-American Municipal Organization.

Article XI.—The General Secretariat shall present to each Congress a report on the work done since the last meeting of the Congress.

Article XII.—The Presentation of papers, the designation of Reporters and Technical Advisers, the number and kind of sessions that should be held and the division of the work at each Congress will be determined and announced in advance by the Permanent Secretariat of the Organization, in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Article XIII.—Decisions of the Congress shall be taken on the basis of one vote per country.

Article XIV.—The conclusions reached by any Working Committee that may be designated will be submitted for final approval by the Congress in Plenary Session.

Article XV.—The conclusions thus approved will be recorded in the Final Act but this will not be binding on the governments of the countries re-

presented by the persons attending the Congress, since its purpose is to establish principles and methods through an interchange of information, the opinion of experts and the verification of the results obtained from experience which applied voluntarily will contribute toward the achievement of the purposes of the Inter-American Municipal Organization.

Article XVI.—At each session, no matter of what kind it may be, only the matter mentioned on the Agenda of the Congress will be taken up and any other that has been previously admitted by the Iniciatives Committee. The persons designated will speak in their turn and during the exposition or explanation of papers admitted as well as during the debates or discussions only such turns as the President may allow may be used and for the strict length of time set for the same.

The sessions will begin punctually on the hour fixed regardless of the number of delegates in attendance.

Steering, Coordination and Resolutions Commiittee.

Article XVII.—The members of the Executive Committee of the Organization and the Vice-Presidents of the Congress will make up an Steering, Coordination and Resolutions Committee which will be presided over by the President of the Congress. This Committee will examine the projects and propositions that are to be submitted to the Congress and will coordinate the activities of the several committees into which the Congress may be divided or that are appointed for the development of specific phases of its matters.

Drafting Committee.

Article XVIII.—There will be a Drafting Committee formed by a representative of each of the official languages of the Congress which shall have charge of examining and coordinating the text of the resolutions presented in the different languages. This Committee will elect a President and a Vice-President from among its members.

DRAFT OF NEW STATUTES

All the members present were already acquainted with this draft and the Chairman asked all of them to express their viewpoints regarding the same. There was considerable discussion thereof, all the members of the Commission making suggestions as to the manner of its approval, all being in accord on the fact that it would be approved in due course since, as was stated by Dr. Morán, no objections had been raised by any of the countries.

Mr. Emmerich advised the meeting that Mr. Paul C. Daniels, Ambassador of the United States of America before the Organization of American States had been appointed as observer to this Congress by the Department of State of that country and that he would reach New Orleans around two o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, May 1st, and stated that it was his opinion that it would be convenient to hear him with regard to the Statutes since he understood that if he was permitted to do so, he would make certain suggestions that might be useful. The Secretary advised the meeting that the attendance of mister Luis Quintanilla, President of the Organization of American States was also expected.

The Secretary also reported that a letter had been received from mister William Manger, who is acting as Secretary of the Pan American Union in the absence of Dr. Alberto Lleras Camargo who is on a trip to Central America, advising the Commission that Mr. Paul R. Kelbaugh, Chief of the Division of Organizations and Conferences of the Pan American Union had been appointed to attend this meeting of the Congress as observer, in representation of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

It was also decided that the draft statutes be discussed and approved by the Commission at a joint session with the gentlemen who are special delegates of the governments and with those that are chiefs of the delegations before submitting the same to the plenary session of the Congress.

Sunday, April 30th, 3:00 p.m.

The Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation met again with Mr. Louis Brownlow acting as Chairman and Dr. Carlos M. Moran, as Secretary. The Credentials Committee, made up of Mr. Daniel W. Hoan, as Chairman, Mr. Jose M. Monasterio, of the Local Organization Committee of the Congress, and doctor Carlos M. Moran, was appointed, in accord with the provisions of the second paragraph of Article V of the Regulations approved at the last meeting.

In fulfilment of the provisions of Article XVIII the Drafting Comittee was appointed, the following gentlemen being members thereof: Mr. Rowland Egger (U. S. A.), Chairman; Mrs. Felisa Rincón de Gautier, Mayoress of San Juan, Puerto Rico (U. S. A.); José M. Cuellar (Colombia); Virgilio Alvarez Sánchez (Dominican Republic) and Ismael Puerta Flores (Venezuela).

Special Sessions of the P. A. C. I. C.

Monday, May 1st, 4 p.m.

The Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, Governmental Representatives, and Chiefs of Delegations, met, the Director General, Mr. Louis Brownlow, acting as Chairman, and Dr. Carlos M. Moran, as Secretary.

This meeting which was called to order for the purpose of considering the draft Statutes of the Organization was attended, as special guests, by Their Excellencies Mr. Luis Quintanilla, Ambassador from Mexico before the Organization of American States and its present President and mister Paul C. Daniels, Ambassador of the United States of America before said Organization appointed as observer by the Department of State of the United States of America, and by Mr. Paul R. Kelbaugh, Chief of the Division of Organizations and Conferences of the Pan American Union, appointed as observer by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

The meeting was also attended by Architect Mr. Abel Gutierrez Aguilera, from Chile, in representation of the Member of the Executive Committee for the South American Municipalities, Architect Mr. Ricardo Gonzalez Cortés, who was unable to attend.

The delegates from the national governments and the chiefs of the delegations from each country were

also asked to attend the majority of whom did so.

Mr. Brownlow explained to those present that this was a special meeting of the different categories of representatives mentioned above for the purpose of hearing of any objections that may be made to the draft of the new statutes of the Organization which had been distributed to everyone prior to the opening of the Congress and also while the delegates were registering.

He stated that inasmuch as said Statutes contemplated the posibility of converting this Organization into a specialized Inter-American organization in accord with the Charter of the Organization of American States, it was a privilege to have present such distinguisted personalities of said Organization as its President, His Excellency Mr. Luis Quintanilla, His Excellency Mr. Paul C. Daniels and Mr. Paul R. Kelbaugh, who had kindly accepted the invitation that had been tendered them and that they did honor to this meeting by their presence, showing their good wishes of cooperation and the high esteem they had for this intermunicipal movement. That unless those in attendance believed otherwise, as a step precedent to any discussion of the draft Statutes, Messrs. Quintanilla and Daniels should be heard, so that their suggestions which are fundamental to any decision that might be reached, might be taken into consideration when said draft was discussed.

Origin and reasons for the draft of the new Statutes.

Dr. Carlos Moran addressed the meeting, as a prior question, to explain the origin and reason for the draft of the new Statutes as well as the process that had been followed to make the same known and said, that although this Organization of Intermunicipal Cooperation had arisen from a Resolution of the Sixth International American Conference held in Havana in 1928, the Statutes of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation adopted at the City of Chicago in November 1939, as a result of the Resolution adopted by the First Pan American Congress held in Havana in 1938, and had thus carried on its well known and beneficial work, once the idea of integration had arisen at the San Francisco Conference of an Inter-American System, on the initiative of Mexico, in which all Inter-American activities would be coordinated, and that this idea was given form at Bogotá in the Charter of the Organization of American States, a classification having been made of all the organizations, it was deemed necessary that this organization of intermunicipal cooperation, which had been at the outset classified as being semi-official in character, should be considered and admitted within the said Inter-American System, with all the rights that might be inherent to its Inter-American character, to its specialization and its lengthy and serious work carried on to the benefit of the municipalities of America, in order to prevent that it be ignored at any time or that some resolution be adopted by the Organization of American States which might harm or be detrimental to its existence, endeavoring at the same time to strengthen the same and increase its possibilities of service and usefulness; that to this end and after hearing several suggestions draft statutes were prepared, based essentially on the text of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which is the draft that

has been distributed among the delegates to this meeting and is known to all; that when it became acquainted with these Statutes, the Government of the Republic of Cuba, being highly interested in all matters concerning intermunicipality, since this idea had arisen from a resolution adopted by the City Council of Havana, proceeded, through the Ministry of State of that republic, to instruct its diplomatic missions in the different countries of America to ask their said governments to study said draft and to send to this meeting delegates from the national governments with authorization and full powers to discuss and approve the new Statutes of this Organization, which action was implemented by the personal visit of Dr. Manuel Sanguily, Director of the Pan American Office of the Ministry of State of the Republic of Cuba, to the Ambassadors and Ministers of the American Republics before the Cuban Government, for the purpose of making the same request to the end that it be transmitted to the respective governments; that besides this, the Secretariat of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation made a very general distribution of the draft statutes and invited all the Governments and all the municipalities, municipal councils, institutions, etc., of cities of more than 50,000 population, sending them the technical agenda of the meeting and telling that it would discuss the adoption of the new statutes as a vital question for this Organization, this being the reason why this meeting of the Congress is being attended by Government Delegates and Delegates from the municipalities. That likewise, and through the conduct of His Excellency, Mr. Gonzalo Güell, Cuban Ambassador before the Organization of American States, a special invitation was made to the President of the Organization of American States, and to advise him, as he has been advised, that he would be appointed Honorary President of this Organization.

After this explanation was heard, the Chairman, Mr. Brownlow, asked His Excellency, Mr. Luis Quintanilla, to address the meeting. His Excellency, after thanking the members for the invitation and for the honor that had been tendered him, stated the interest of the Organization of American States in this Organization and referring to the draft statutes stated that he considered the draft a very good one, provided certain changes were made in the same so that it would not conflict with the text and the interpretation that has been given by the Council of the Organization of American States to the Bogotá Charter.

Statement by the President of the O.A.S.

He stated that in accord with the standards adopted by the Committee on Inter-American Organizations of the Council of the Organization of American States, to serve as the guide for the study of the Inter-American organizations in accord with the Charter of the Organization of American States and the resolutions of the Bogotá Conference, two types of Inter-American organizations are recognized: 1. Specialized organizations and 2, other Inter-American organizations.

That in order for specialized inter-American organizations to be considered as such, they must have the following conditions required by the Charter of the Organization of American States in articles 95 to 100 of Chapter XV: 1) They must be

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inter-governmental, i.e., they are official entities made up by the national governments themselves; 2) they must be established by multilateral agreements, i.e., by agreements between more than two governments; 3) they must have a given function, i.e., the purpose they seek must be specifically declared; 4) their function must be of a technical nature, this being understood as the functions essential in all fields of international collaboration, except those of a political nature; and 5) the subject matter of their activities must be of common interest to the American states, i.e., that organizations set up for reasons of a regional order or to meet any other necessity are not included within the category of specialized inter-American organizations.

That once the character of the specialized organizations is defined, all those semi-official or private organizations that do not fulfill the requirements of specialized organizations will be considered to be other inter-American organizations.

That the distinction between these groups is merely a distinction established in accord with the provisions of the Charter of the Organization for the purpose of fixing the powers and obligations derived from the Charter with respect to said organizations, but in no way implies any difference as to their importance.

That the organization of intermunicipal cooperation to which the draft Statutes refers includes four of the five conditions established in Article 95 of the Charter of the Organization of American States in order to be considered as an inter-American specialized organization, but that it lacks the first condition, that is, that it is not an official entity made up by the national governments themselves.

That the consequence would be, when the Organization of American States became acquainted with the Statutes, that a resolution might be adopted against them, and the question is whether the advantages that might be derived for the intermunicipal organization, should it be a specialized organization as defined by the Charter of the Organization of American States, would be of such a nature as to justify taking the risk that might be to the detriment of the organization.

That this movement of intermunicipal cooperation has great sympathy within the Council of the Organization of American States and its General Secretariat, it being possible that, either through an interchange of notes or by an agreement, an arrangement might be reached under which the relations between this intermunicipal organization and the Organization of American States would be defined in such a way as to be useful and advantageous to both, and he personally offered —and believes that the same would be done by his colleague Ambassador Daniels— to take the proper steps within the Council to establish said relations upon fixed bases, as soon as it is known what this Organization of Intermunicipal Cooperation wishes to obtain as an aid or collaboration from the Organization of American States.

That this Inter-American Municipal Organization has great possibilities and a magnificent program, whose objectives it will surely be able more properly to carry on within an autonomous status and with the financial support of the governments, municipalities and other entities interested in

municipal affairs; as well as with the support and cooperation of the Pan American Union.

That he admits that there is a fundamental error in the classification established in Article 95 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, but that that error cannot be corrected now and it is not advisable that the Statutes that are about to be approved include provisions under which it appears as a specialized inter-American organization —even if it should be such— if it is in conflict with what is established in the Charter.

That he takes the liberty of advising that there be eliminated from the Statutes everything that may be in conflict with said classification and that he again repeats his offer to do everything within his reach —and he can almost say this will be done succesfully— to obtain from the Council of the Organization of American States the establishment of the most cordial and advantageous relations between the Inter-American Municipal Organization and the Organization of American States.

The Chairman, Mr. Brownlow, thanked His Excellency Mr. Luis Quintanilla for his valuable advice and asked His Excellency Mr. Paul C, Daniels to address the meeting.

Ambasador Daniels' View points.

Mr. Daniels stated that he was not authorized to speak in behalf of his other colleagues on the Council of the Organization of American States, nor even as Ambassador of the United States of America before that Organization, as to what the Inter-American Organization of Inter-municipal Cooperation should do; but that he had heard what his colleague Ambassador Quintanilla had said and had read the draft Statutes that were to be discussed and was practically in full accord with what Ambassador Quintanilla had stated.

That he believes the draft is a good one and that with slight changes made therein and which he had made notes of, there would be stricken from the same those points that might create difficulties in the future for the establishment of proper relations of mutual assistance that might be established bewteen the IMO and the Organization of American States. That if it were possible at any time during this Third Meeting he would be willing to state what those points are and which in his opinion should be changed, and that likewise, mister Paul R. Kelbaugh, Chief of the Division of Organizations and Conferences of the Pan American Union who is present here, could collaborate to those ends.

Statement from the U.S. State Department Observer.

Thereupon His Excellency Mr. Paul C. Daniels made the following statement:

"My country is honored at the presence here of so many distinguished delegates from the cities and towns of the other American Republics, meeting to reinforce the bonds of friendship and to discuss common problems faced by municipal administrations. Your effort has the whole hearted support of the Department of State, whose representation I bear, as a most worthy endeavour of local authorities to learn from international cooperation by making known to each other techniques evolved to perfect municipal administration. The element of strength in your (the proposed) Organization is the direct

participation of private individual experts, and of representatives of municipalities and of national organizations interested in municipal questions. Such direct participation of local governments gives your work a practical quality which is much to be desired. This Organization is a fine demonstration that it is not only at the national level that international cooperation can be effective. I congratulate you and express the hope that the good work can continue, with increased support, both moral and also financial, from the municipalities of the hemisphere in whose interests the organization was conceived back in the early 1920's and for whose benefit it is now being transformed into a more workable instrument of inter-American cooperation among municipalities. While my Government has not been officially represented at the past Congresses or at this Third Congress, in view of the nature of the Congresses, the Department of State has asked me to express its interest in these proceedings and its hope that the Pan American inter-municipal movement will continue eyer stronger".

Thursday, May 4, 4:30 p.m.

Special session of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, with the delegates of the national governments and chiefs of delegations. Observers: Their Excellencies, Messrs. Luis Quintanilla (Organization of American States); Paul C. Daniels, (U. S. State Department), and Paul R. Kelbaugh, (Pan American Union).

The session was opened by the chairman, Louis Brownlow, who read the list of members of the Executive Committee and the other members of the Commission, requesting the secretary, Dr. Moran, to read the list of Chiefs of Delegations; after which Mr. Brownlow explained that, as in previous sessions, this one comprised four groups of persons:

1. Members of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation and its Executive Committee.
2. Delegates of the National Governments.
3. Chiefs of Municipal Delegations,
4. The observers.

Mr. Brownlow stated that in this session the following subjects would be considered, with decisions to be submitted to the final plenary session of the Congress:

a) New statutes of the organization, with changes introduced in accordance with suggestions by Messrs. Quintanilla, Daniels and Kelbaugh;
b) Proposed resolutions;
c) Invitations received for the IV meeting; and
d) Nominations of candidates.

Mr. Brownlow explained that if the new statutes are approved, it should be decided at the present session who are to occupy the new positions in accordance with these statutes; and that, as it is known, members of the Executive Committee, until there is a new election, are Antonio Beruff Mendieta of Havana, President; the present speaker, Louis Brownlow, of U. S., Director General; Dr. Carlos M. Moran, Secretary; the Mayor of Havana; the Architect Ricardo Gonzalez Cortes, Chile, representing municipalities of South America; and Herbert Emmerich, of U. S., representing the "American Committee for International Municipal Coopera-

tion"; that Dr. Beruff Mendieta, Mayor of Havana, and Mr. Gonzalez Cortes had found it impossible to attend but that he represented Dr. Beruff; Dr. Moran, the Mayor of Havana and architect Abel Gutierrez, here present, Mr. Gonzalez Cortes.

Mr. Brownlow added that the Secretary had communications from members of the P.A.C.I.C. who could not attend but had given approval in advance of action to be taken in view of information received.

He requested Mr. Emmerich to take the chair because it was necessary for him to leave the room some minutes, but before leaving he explained that in the new statutes the position of Director General was abolished; and that he himself would soon be ready for abolition, having already retired from all other activities of this kind; that he had passed the Biblical term of three score years and ten; that his sight was weak; that it was time that some other person should take over the duties which he had carried out over so many years with such devotion and pleasure; and that he asked to be excused.

The Secretary, Dr. Moran, asked for the floor and declared that he considered it necessary to make clear that the suppression of the position of Director General was designed to permit the retirement of Dr. Louis Brownlow, who had generously continued with all efficiency and interest his valued services to the organization after retiring from all other duties; and that it constituted a well deserved homage to his long and excellent labor and to himself as the guiding spirit on Pan American municipal cooperation that, in preparing the new statutes, it had been considered that if the post of Director General was not to be held by Mr. Brownlow, it should be suppressed. (Applause).

Mr. Emmerich took the chair and explained to those present the time and work which had been given to the preparation of the new statutes by Ambassadors Quintanilla and Daniels, Mr. Kelbaugh and Dr. Moran, with the modifications that had been suggested; and that the organization could feel proud and satisfied that the benefits represented by the counsels of the Ambassadors who had shown their interest so that the organization could be consolidated in the firmest possible bases to permit the closest future cooperation with the Organization of American States.

Remarks by His Excellency Luis Quintanilla.

His Excellency Luis Quintanilla took the floor. He expressed his sympathy for the organization and said that, although he was not authorized to do it, he ventured the assurance that the twenty other ambassadors of the Council of the O.A.S. felt the same good wishes and would give the organization their support: that in this field of Pan Americanism there could not be any rivalry between the different organizations; and that the O.A.S. recognized and applauded the work of this municipal organization in the search for better relations between the American States. He approved what had been stated with regard to action concerning inter-American organizations in the Bogota Charter; and declared that he considered it possible that the Charter's definition is mistaken as it concerns the concept of specialization, in relation to such organizations, but that this could not be changed now and a simple matter of definition should not be permitt-

ed to cause any harm to the municipal organization; that there is no real difference between specialized and non-specialized organizations except that the former, being organizations constituted by the national governments, can include their revenues in the budget of the O.A.S., which does not mean a great advantage; that he did not believe that the Intermunicipal American Organization should be converted into specialized organization, because of the disadvantages this would occasion in the matter of objectives and flexibility, and for the reason that not being specialized it would have the advantage of obtaining resources from many sources which otherwise would be closed to it. He added that he could even go so far as to say that if the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation were a specialized inter-American organism, then under the terms of the Charter it would lose its originality, would be considered a new and onerous burden and lose its popular character and its usefulness in the sphere of the municipality. "I congratulate you because it is not a specialized organization", he declared. This makes it more difficult, Mr. Quintanilla continued, for the directors to collect the dues, but it gives the organization a unique and attractive character. That it is proper to make clear what the O.A.S. could do to help the Inter-American Municipal Organization:

1.—Recognize publicly, if necessary by a resolution of the Council, the utility of the organization, resolution which he himself would propose to the Council, for which purpose he offers his spontaneous action.

2.—With the authority of the organization recognized, it would then be possible to enter into an agreement for cooperation and close assistance. He said it would be very difficult at the moment to outline concretely even in skeleton form such a possible agreement, but that there exist in the O. A. S. many facilities which could be placed within reach and at the service of the Inter American Municipal Organization. He added that in the Secretariat of the former, which has a budget of about $3,000,000 a year, there are experts on many subjects of interest to this organization, such as in the fields of housing, health, soil conservation, etc. Mr. Quintanilla offered to explore in Washington the possibilities of cooperation. He pointed out that the power of the O. A. S. to make agreements under Article 23, section D. of the Bogota Charter, is unequivocal.

Mr. Quintanilla declared this agreement for collaboration would be defended by him and could include whatever the organization might wish, including assistance in preparation of conferences, which he said could be very useful because of the experience in this field of the Pan American Union. He added that the latter could call the attention of the various governments to the importance of such meetings, since they communicated with governments and not with municipalities, but such support could be very useful.

Finally, Mr. Quintanilla concluded, instead of making suggestions, we hope to hear from you about what you want from us, and the agreement for collaboration which is reached may take any one of various forms; the result of an exchange of notes between authorities of this organization and those of the O. A. S. or perhaps a formal agreement between the two organizations. He said it

would be necessary to explore the manner which would be most practical method to be carried out at once, since they would have the same value; the agreement would be the most complicated because it would require approval of the Council, which would require more time.

Mr. Quintanilla concluded by saying: "I urge you that whatever procedure you choose, that the propositions you make to us be very brief, very clear and very concrete, and that they leave the door open for whatever other assistance that may occur to the O. A. S. Secretariat that can be offered; and I am sure that the agreement which is reached will be very useful for both organizations."

The chairman, Mr. Emmerich, thanked Mr. Quintanilla for his decided and enthusiastic cooperation; and added that with approval of the statutes, it would be the function of the organization's Executive Committee to decide in regard to an agreement between the organization and the O. A. S. He said he considered it in order that opinions should be heard on the philosophy and certain aspects of the future organization; and that since the draft of the statutes, as modified, had been distributed among the delegates, he would suggest that to save time they should be considered page by page.

Mr. Augusto Pumarino (Chile) suggested that they be discussed chapter by chapter.

Mr. Juan Scasso (Uruguay) inquired whether it was necessary to discuss them chapter by chapter, pointing out that the statutes as revised contain the vigorous spirit which gives value to the work of the writers; and that it contains, clearly defined, the objectives of a new and effective organization and that all those who had participated in the draft are good friends of the organization.

He said he had studied closely, point by point, this new draft and that the new statutes not only adjust themselves to the present situation but also have been prepared with a view to the future; that a capable organization has been organized which we should make full use of; that all present no doubt had confidence in all of those who had worked on the new draft and it should be accepted by acclamation, because otherwise they would be discussing it all night and would not arrive at definitive conclusions.

Mr. Brin (Panama) seconded the motion of Mr. Scasso.

The chairman, Mr. Emmerich, inquired before continuing whether there was anything in the new statutes which would prevent the entry of Canada into the organization; and what was provided in Article 42 of the Statutes.

The Secretary, Dr. Moran, answered that there was nothing to prevent the entry of Canada; and that Article 42 of the Statutes established the sources of revenue for the organization.

Resolution inviting the Canadian municipalities.

Mr. José Manuel Cuellar (Bogota, Colombia) asked the Chair that the motion presented by the delegation of the municipalities of Bogota, Barranquilla, and Medellin (Colombia) in regard to the admission of Canada should be read.

The Secretary, Dr. Moran, read:

"The Third Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipal-

ities, being held in the city of New Orleans,

"Whereas it is considered necessary for the complete success of the movement for inter-municipal cooperation on this hemisphere that the municipalities of Canada should be included in the organization, especially in view of the valuable assistance they have offered towards the closer connections between the different municipal entities of America, with such good will and within the concepts of liberty and democracy which inspire us,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the cities of Canada be invited to join with us permanently in the Inter-American Organization of Municipalities, sending representatives to its Congresses and taking part in the other activities as provided in the Statutes."

Mr. Pumarino (Chile) seconded the daft resolution and after inquiry from the chair it was adopted by acclamation.

Acknowledgment by the President of the Canadian delegation.

Mr. McLean (Canada) voiced profound thanks to those present for admitting Canada by acclamation as member of the organization. He said he had followed with great interest the deliberations of the Congress and taken note of its importance in drawing closer the bonds of friendship between all the countries and cities of America; that Canada could feel proud to belong to the organization and would cooperate with it to the utmost of its ability; and that he would take a message to the municipalities of Canada to interest the greatest possible number of them in this movement for continental inter-municipality.

The chairman, Mr. Emmerich, said it would be necessary to continue consideration of the draft statutes.

Statement by the Cuban Government Delegate.

Mr. Antonio Bruzon (Cuba) asked for the floor and read the following: "As representative of the Cuban government, I should like to make the following observations. When my government learned that in this city of New Orleans and thanks to the generosity of its Mayor, Mr. De-Lesseps S. Morrison, there was to be held this Inter-American Congress of Municipalities with discussion and approval of new statutes for the organization, the Minister of State obtained from the headquarters of the Pan American Commission on Inter-Municipal Cooperation a copy of these statutes. Once these were considered good and in accordance with the principles established by Cuba, where this idea for inter-municipal cooperation was originated, or intermunicipality, as it was called by its originator, the former Havana councilman Mr. Ruy de Lugo Viña, it was decided to ask the governments of America to send their delegates, with full powers to approve these statutes, for which purpose instructions were sent to the Cuban diplomatic missions in each capital in America. Mr. Manuel Sanguily. Chief of the Pan American Office of the Ministry of State, visited the missions of the countries represented in Havana, for that purpose. Favorable responses were received from a majority of the governments, some of which are represented here. I wish to make known the interest of the Cuban government in the approval of these statutes as they are now written, for which I hereby offer my vote. In doing so I am carrying out

the instructions of my government and wish to reiterate its interest in such approval so that inter-municipal cooperation and this Inter-American Organization for Inter-Municipal Cooperation may be firmly planted, guaranteed and fortified within the inter-American system, and in a manner to permit the full realization of the objectives set forth in this draft statutes."

Mr. Cruz Ayala (Dominican Republic) asked the chair that the Statutes be read, declaring that although he shared with Mr. Scasso the complete confidence in the writers of the draft, it was certain that many delegates had not had the opportunity to know in detail the changes that had been made in the previous draft distributed by the Secretariat.

The Secretary, Dr. Moran, explained that the only changes introduced consisted in the suppression of all that made of the organization an integral part of the inter-American system as a specialized type of organism, in view of the suggestions made and heard by all from their Excellencies Messrs. Quintanilla and Daniels; and the establishment, in Article 42 of the sources of revenue for the Organization.

After a discussion in which speakers were Messrs. Hoan (U. S.) Cuellar (Colombia), Cruz Ayala (Dominican Republic), Pumarino (Chile), Bruzon (Cuba), Concha (Ecuador), and Scasso (Uruguay), it was agreed unanimously to recess until 9.30 p.m. in order that all delegates might read the new text of the draft statutes.

Preliminary approval of the Statutes

The session was renewed under chairmanship of Mr. Herbert Emmerich.

Mr. Cruz Ayala of the Dominican Republic took the floor to say that the Dominican delegation, thanks to the kindness of the members of the Commission, had had the opportunity to read the draft for revised Statutes and for that reason could declare that it had their complete approbation.

Mr. Brin of Panama proposed that the motion of Mr. Scasso therefor could be considered, in the sense that the Statutes should be approved by acclamation.

Mr. Ibarra of Guatemala said that he had studied the statutes and found them satisfactory, since certain suggestions that the Guatemalan delegation wished to make had already been considered in the new text; and that he approved the suggestion that the motion of Mr. Scasso be considered and approved, with one reservation: that a law by the Congress of his country would be necessary for the ratification of the statutes, which he would recommend to his Government.

Mr. Emmerich declared that in view of the signs of approbation, the Statutes could be considered approved by acclamation.

Mr. Emmerich took the opportunity to congratulate Cuba on the decided support it had given the Organization to date.

Dr. Moran declared that the concontribution of Cuba had been supplemented by those of Chile, the United States, Haiti, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and municipalities and institutions of various places in America and Canada.

Mr. Emmerich turned the chair over to Mr. Brownlow, who asked whether the resolutions were ready for discussion.

Mr. Emmerich answered that they had not yet been prepared because

the new statutes affect some of the resolutions, but that he could inform the Commission on their contents.

The Secretary, Dr. Moran, read the resolution of Mr. Hoan on municipal autonomy.

Mr. Brin, of Panama, seconded it and asked that it be adopted by acclamation.

Mr. McLean, of Canada, supported this suggestion.

The chairman, Mr. Brownlow, asked for a vote and it was approved.

The Secretary, Dr. Moran, read the proposed resolution of the delegation from the Dominican Republic on the Columbus Lighthouse.

Mr. Allende of Chile seconded the resolution.

Mr. Brin of Panama asked that it be approved by acclamation.

The chairman, Mr. Brownlow, put the resolution to a vote and it was approved by acclamation.

The delegates from the Dominican Republic, Messrs. Cruz Ayala and Alvarez Sanchez, voiced their thanks and showed to those present an album describing the progress of the work on the lighthouse.

The Secretary, Dr. Moran, proceeded to read a motion presented by the delegation from Colombia on cultural exchanges.

Mr. Cuellar, of Colombia, explained the importance of the project, which was further supported by Mr. Pineros of Colombia.

The chairman, Mr. Brownlow, asked for a vote by approbation for the resolution in principle, which was approved and sent to the Drafting Committee.

The Secretary, Dr. Moran, read the proposed resolution from the work session on housing.

Mr. Scasso, of Uruguay, explained how resolutions on housing and planning had been combined into one.

The Secretary, Dr. Moran, told of the various drafts for resolutions which were approved in principle, with agreement that they be sent to the Drafting Commission for submission to the final plenary session of the Congress.

Mr. Brownlow suggested that a vote of confidence be given to the chairmen of reporting committees and the Drafting Committee, in regard to the resolutions adopted in technical sessions, which was approved.

Invitations for the IV meeting.

Mr. Brownlow then proceeded to consideration of invitations which had been received for the next meeting of the Congress.

Dr. Moran announced that invitations had been received from Detroit, San Francisco, Montevideo and Quebec.

Mr. Brownlow made informal reference to conversations on this subject with representatives of these cities.

Mr. McLean, of Canada, spoke in favor of Quebec, explaining its advantages, its excellent hotels, and the pleasure with which it would receive the delegates, but adding that he did not wish that his words would be interpreted as undue pressure, but rather as a sincere desire to contribute in this way to the progress of the Organization.

Mr. Scasso, of Uruguay, spoke on the invitation from Montevideo.

Dr. Moran discussed the cost of this kind of a Congress, citing as examples the costs of the first meeting in Havana and the second in Santiago, Chile, which he declared were important to keep in consideration.

Mr. Emmerich spoke in favor of a principle of rotation and acceptance of the invitation from Montevideo, and suggested that the subject be referred for discussion to the Executive Committee.

Mr. Brin, of Panama, also spoke in favor of Montevideo, and said that in his opinion the Congress could decide the question at once, and if that were not possible, then it could be referred to the Pan American Commission.

Mr. Gutierrez, of Chile, added eulogies for Montevideo and asked that the Congress be held there.

Mr. Emmerich added arguments in favor of Montevideo.

The chairman, Mr. Brownlow, advised that the plenary session be notified of the invitations received, with recommendation that the invitation from Montevideo be accepted. He asked for a vote and acceptance of the invitation from Montevideo was approved.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officials for the Organization in accordance with the Statutes, and the following officials were elected:

President, Mr. deLesseps S. Morrison, Mayor of New Orleans; Vice President, the Mayor of Montevideo; and Delegate for the city where the previous Congress was held, the Mayor of Santiago de Chile; and Secretary, Dr. Carlos M. Moran.

With no further matters to be discussed the meeting was adjourned.

Technical Sessions of the I. C. M.

(The papers were distributed in a pamphlet printed in Spanish and English by Public Administration clearing House - Chicago, Ill.)

Wednesday, May 3rd. 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: *Relations between municipalities and central governments.*
REPORTER: *Mr. Rowland Egger.*

The President of the Congress, Mr. Louis Brownlow called the meeting to order and after making some routine announcements gave the chair to Dr. Augusto Pumarino, Mayor of Valparaiso, Chile who introduced the Reporter, Mr. Rowland Egger, Professor of the University of Virginia who has been closely connected with the work of intermunicipal cooperation from the very outset. He excused the co-reporter, Professor Rafael Xavier, of Rio de Janeiro, who had been unable to attend the Congress.

Mr. Egger spoke of his report in general terms and did not read it in full as copies had been distributed among the persons attending the Congress. He spoke of the special structure of the United States where there are 48 different systems or State Governments which makes the relations between the States and the central government and the municipalities quite complicated.

In general terms he went over his report bringing the same down to the fundamental points therein set forth with practical examples, stating that although he was not acquainted with the organization of all the countries of America and the manner in which the relations between the municipalities and the higher levels of government were carried on, such as States,

Provinces and the State itself, he believed that probably situations similar to those mentioned in his paper would be found.

Mr. Pumarino thanked Mr. Egger for his interesting paper and stated that those problems were more or less the same throughout America, making special reference to the situation in his country Chile, and that he has always taken a great interest in this problem of the relations between the municipalities and the higher governmental spheres. That since 1891, municipal autonomy has existed in Chile; that at the start the position of the municipalities was weakened due to a lack of adequate resources but that later laws have gradually corrected this defect to a certain extent, and that at the present time a certain percentage of the municipal revenue goes to the State and that the State contributes something to the municipalities but that in the measure that these laws have given greater authority to the State and greater participation in municipal revenue, municipal autonomy has been weakened. That the 1925 Constitution makes full provision for municipal autonomy but that even now the municipal governments are faced with serious difficulties in order to meet their expenditures.

Mr. Pablo Bernal, Mayor of Medellin, Colombia took the floor; he explained the situation in his country and the advantages and disadvantages of the present system of municipal autonomy in force in his country. He spoke of the great progress made by the City of Medellin and the difficulties it encountered in meeting its expenditures in comparison with the large increase in population and in the preponderance that the Central Government still exercised in the economic affairs of the municipal governments.

Mr. Harvey Walker, Professor of Ohio State University and Secretary-Treasurer of the "American Political Science Association" made the following statement:

"It is my purpose to footnote and to elaborate a little on the excellent paper (on Relations Between Municipalities and Central Governments) just delivered by Rowland Egger (Director of the Bureau of Public Administration, University of Virginia, Charlottesville). When I was engaged in the study of political science as an undergraduate at the University of Kansas, Professor C. M. Fassett, formerly mayor of Spokane, Washington, once told us that the requirements for good government in a democracy may be reduced to three: 1. A good form of organization; 2. Competen officials; and 3. Informed and interested citizens. These basic principles have been a great help to me in analyzing governmental institutions and in teaching undergraduate students. Governments which lack one of these elements may flourish for a time, but they cannot be sucessful over long periods. Sometimes an element may be deficient but not completely lacking. Such deficiency reduces the average value of the services delivered to the citizens, and only when the deficiency is removed can government realize its highest purposes.

"In municipal government, since the form depends so completely upon the action of higher authority, it is essential that this source be sympathetic to the objectives and purposes to be accomplished by city officials. In the United States we began as an agricultural country. The state governments which, as Dr. Egger told

us, control the form and powers of municipal governments in this country had their organization stabilized early in the nineteenth century. Legislative bodies in the states reflected the then predominantly agrarian character of our population. The apportionment of members in these legislatures was written into our state constitutions. These were made rather difficult to change. As our country grew very rapidly in the last half of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth our population became urban rather than rural in its principal character but corresponding changes did not occur in the apportionment of representatives of cities in our legislatures. Partly because of the difficulty of amending constitutions, partly because of emotional attachment to old, tried governmental institutions, the changes which would have been necessary for the apportionment to keep pace with the growth of urban communities did not take place. As a result, in most of our states today we have populations which are predominantly urban but legislatures in which the representation is predominantly rural.

"Much has been said in this Conference about the desirability of home rule for cities. This rule may be granted by the state legislatures or it may be granted by the people through provisions of the state constitutions. Where constitutions are silent cities customarily turn to the state legislature for authority to govern their own affairs. Since these legislatures are predominantly rural in character they have little sympathy with the problems of local officials. We have found in the United States that home rule may be obtained only by small degrees and then only when the municipalities demonstrate to an unsympathetic legislature that they are deserving of the trust and confidence which such home rule implies.

"In democracy we operate upon the general principle that each citizen should have an equal voice in the management of our public affairs. Some of our states, through literacy tests, have reduced somewhat the strict application of this democratic principle. In doing so they have emphasized the importance of another principle, namely that citizens are qualified to participate in the decision of public questions only if they are educated and capable of informing themselves on the merits and deficiencies of public proposals. Whether we limit our representation or not, we certainly are not interested in giving representation to any interest in a democracy other than people. Perhaps we wish to limit it to intelligent people, but certainly we do not wish to give representation to wealth or property or land as such.

"I mention these things to you because many of your countries still are agrarian in their predominant character. You are now experiencing the change which occurred in our country, the transfer of large populations from rural to urban areas. As this process continues and accelerates in its tempo, it is very important to remember that constitutional changes to grant the people of cities a voice proportionate to their numerical strength should accompany the urbanization. Once the urbanization is complete if these changes have not already been made they will be very difficult to make.

"This underlines the necessity of keeping constitutions flexible to meet changing conditions. They should be easy to amend. Difficult amendment places undue power in the hands of minorities. It also is necessary that we exercise eternal vigilance to see that

people rather than special interests such as property really are represented. And finally, it is necessary that we keep the people informed of what their governments are doing so that they may pass intelligently upon the adequacy and fidelity of the stewardship of our public officiels. We must have faith in democracy that under these conditions the people, through constitutional means rather than through revolutions, will correct any errors that they may discern.

"In order to do these things we must be more than men of good will devoted to the service of our fellow men. We must study and learn the best practice. We must educate our people to want the best and then we must give them the best. Only by such procedure can we raise the level of the public conscience of those who live in our countries and in our cities."

Mr. Jose D. Bazan, Mayor of Colon, Republic of Panama, then took the floor and went into great details explaining the situation in his country where municipal autonomy exists fully provided of in the 1945 Constitution. He also referred to two laws which regulate this autonomy and the relations between the municipalities and the State; the distribution of revenue and expenditures; regarding the Code of Administration and the decree-law that regulates the municipal regime and the manner in which the municipal budgets are prepared and how expenditures are distributed, affirming that Panama has made great progress in this matter of relations between the State and the municipalities.

There being no further discussion of the subject, the meeting was adjourned for the purpose of drafting the conclusions on this subject that will be entered in the Final Act.

Wednesday, May 3rd. 3:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: *Housing and the municipalities*

REPORTER: *Mr. Herbert Emmerich, U.S.A.*

The President of the Congress, Mr. Louis Brownlow, called the meeting to order and made several routine announcements and then stated that the absence of Dr. Carlos Moran, Secretary of the Congress, that had been noted by several delegates, was due to the fact that, taking advantage of the kind offer of Their Excellencies Messrs. Luis Quintanilla and Paul C. Daniels of the Organization of American States and of Mr. Paul R. Kelbaugh of the Pan American Union, he had been working with them on the revision of the draft of the new statutes for the Organization. Mr. Brownlow then gave the chair to Mr. Federico Ponce, President of the Municipal Council of Caracas, Venezuela.

Mr. Ponce introduced the General Reporter of the subject to be discussed at this session, Mr. Herbert Emmerich, President of the American Committee of International Municipal Cooperation, Director of the "Public Administration Clearing House" of Chicago, and Member of the Executive Committee of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, whose report had already been distributed to all the delegates in English and Spanish.

Mr. Emmerich expressed his appreciation for the honor of having been chosen to speak on this subject before the Congress and to regret that the co-reporter, his good friend Ricardo Gonzalez Cortes, of Chile, to

whom he had sent a copy of his paper, had not been able to attend this meeting.

He spoke of the present shortage of housing accommodations as a world problem, since nowhere is there an adequate number of modern, safe and healthy dwellings to meet the growing needs of the people. He refers to the need of having a demonstration program which is the first step in the development of construction methods and techniques; this demonstration program must contain information on planning, costs and methods of managing the projects and went on to explain the different phases of such a program. He speaks of the experience in the United States in this matter of housing, explaining the situation in general terms; of the study made of supply and demand; the necessary statistics on total population, the number of families, the average increase in population, and also the ability to pay for housing projects. He refers to housing projects financed by private initiative and by State or public aid and specially goes into great detail on low rent and low cost housing, of the technique and forms of construction, and said that naturally he was referring mainly to the United States realizing that its situation is different to that of other countries due to its climate, etc. After explaining what would be the experience of an inhabitant from Mars who came to the Earth to study this matter of housing, he went on to adjust the view points expressed in his paper to what the visitor from Mars would actually find. He pointed to the need of cooperation between private and public enterprise and of the municipalities with the Federal Government in order to successfully carry out these projects of adequate housing, and submitted to the consideration of the delegates the conclusions expressed at the end of his report.

Mr. Emmerich referred to a contribution of great value received from the Dominican Municipal League, signed by Engineer Bienvenido Martinez Brea and Dr. Virgilio Heppelman, members of the Administrative Council of the District of Santo Domingo, which, because it had been received too late, could not be included in the booklet that has been distributed and which, because of its length, cannot be read now in spite of the valuable historical data and the reference to experiences that it contains, in which paper the authors reach the following conclusions: "A. The housing problem is not one characteristic of decadent municipalities or those not having economic resources, but of those that show progress in all orders and have a large fixed or floating populations due to their economic-social activity and the several attractive points. B. Nothing is comparable, due to its magnitude and to its consequences in all orders, political, social, economic, human, to the housing problem of modern times. C. To solve this problem private initiative stimulated by the municipal and national authorities is of great utility. D. The housing problem, even though its most acute status is found in the twentieth century, is as old as the great human communities and is essentially the result of an exaggerated grouping of people on certain places of the Earth. E. The most effective intervention in the action and function of the municipalities is based on the closest, most effective and technical coordination of the municipal program of city planning with the program and plans of the State.

A concrete example: the Dominican Republic".

Mr. Emmerich also stated that the delegation of the Municipality of Caracas has brought to this meeting an important paper as a contribution to the consideration of the housing problem and a moving picture film showing the construction of the Avenida Bolivar which will be exhibited on the 5th, at 11 a.m. As conclusions of its paper, the delegation from the Municipality of Caracas states:

"1. The housing problem being, in a general sense, similar in all the capitals of Latin America, due to the exodus of the rural masses toward the larger cities either with the hope of improving their standard of living or misguided by the idea that the centralization of the industries, commerce and all those improvements which the investment of large capitals brings with them, will benefit them, has resulted, that in spite of the great haste with which new constructions have been made, the acute housing problem has not improved. 2. In our country which a few years back was essentially an agricultural and cattle raising community, the majority of the people from the interior abandoned their farms and live stock attracted by the advantages of urban progress, leaving the fields in a desolate condition and not fit for readaptation by our scarce human material nor for the immigratory movement of the displaced persons of the Old World that has taken place during the past few years, not allowing the former to go back from whence they came nor the latter to fulfil the mission for which they were brought to this country. 3. In addition to the shortage of dwellings the problem has been further complicated by the inadequacy and unhealthfulness of the constructions made on the hills and valleys that surround the city, proper, since public services reach an extremely high cost and in many cases cannot be rendered by the municipality; on the other hand, twenty years ago we had not foreseen the great and rapid increase in population and the municipalities regretfully did not hold on to their unuused lands and thus it is that at the present time there is not sufficient free land on which the municipality can construct houses of lower cost to provide dwellings for that large population which lacks the essential means for present living. 4. The aftermath of the last world war has contributed greatly to the slow progress made in the construction of individual homes by the neediest classes, since the restrictions found in the importation of construction materials as well as in the purchase thereof, caused the prices thereof to increase to such a high level that it was absolutely impossible to obtain them".

The Chilean delegates, Messrs. Augusto Pumarino and Abel Gutierrez spoke. The former gave a brief outline of what had been done in Chile with regard to this problem since the year 1920. He said that a great deal had been accomplished, but that the fact is that the Chilean municipalities do not have the resources nor the capital with which to undertake large scale housing projects. Mr. Gutierrez praised the paper which had been presented by Mr. Emmerich and spoke of the projects that have been carried out in Chile to a certain extent and to what was being done, specially in the matter of low cost housing. He spoke briefly of what had been done in this respect by the Pan American Architectural Congresses, the seventh of which has just been held in Havana. He also refers to the support

given by the banks in Chile and to the work that has been done in this matter by Mrs. Gonzalez Videla.

Mr. Juan Scasso, of Montevideo, Ururguay, also took part in the discussion on this subject congratulating Mr. Emmerich on his paper but stating that he does not fully agree with the conclusions that have been reached because he believes they should be more effective and outspoken in order that something useful may be done to remedy this situation of a scarcity of adequate, modern, healthy and safe dwellings. He spoke of the great progress made in his own country in this matter of housing, of the laws in force to guarantee the investment of capital on projects of this kind and suggests that a subcommittee draft the conclusions that are to come forth from this session.

The Mayoress of San Juan Puerto Rico, Mrs. Felisa Rincon de Gautier speaks of the way this problem has been handled in her country and states that greater attention has been placed on the people who are to live in the houses that are constructed than on the persons that are to construct them.

Mr. Mendoza, of Cuba, speaks at some length on the part of Mr. Emmerich's report relative to demonstration and refers to what was done in this connection at the recent Pan American Congress of Architects that was held in Havana, suggesting the convenience of having the future Inter American Congresses of Municipalities, wherein the matter of housing is discussed, that adequate expositions be made with plans and photographs of what is being done.

With the statement on the part of Mr. Emmerich that he would accept any suggestion that might be made and that he would meet for that purpose with the other delegates interested in the kind of conclusions that are to be submitted to the Plenary Session, in order that the same may be drafted, the meeting was adjourned.

Thursday, May 4th, 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: *City Planning.*
REPORTER: *Mr. Walter H. Blucher, U.S.A.*

The session was called to order by Mr. Louis Brownlow, who first made several announcements, among them that the next meeting of the Pan American Commission, Delegates of National Governments and Chiefs of Delegations for the purpose of considering the draft Statutes which have already been revised with the valued assistance of Their Excellencies Messrs Luis Quintanilla and Paul C. Daniels and Mr. Paul Kelbaugh of the Pan American Union, would be held to-day at 3.00 p.m., and that the accredited delegates, as approved by the Credentials Committee would be announced by mister John J. Kennedy in representation of the Secretary, Dr. Moran.

Once the reading of the names of the delegates had ended, Mr. Brownlow turned the chair over to mister Juan Scasso of Montevideo, Uruguay.

Mr. Scasso took the chair and introduced Mr. Walter H. Blucher, Executive Director of the "American Society of Planning Officials", who is the Reporter on the subject that is to be taken up at this session, mister Blucher being and old friend of his since the Second Inter American Congress of Municipalities held in Chile.

Mr. Blucher stated that he appreciated the kind words of Mr. Scasso and regrets that a good friend of his from Caracas, Engineer Francisco

Carrillo Batalla, who was the co-reporter on this subject, is not present.

Mr. Blucher said that his paper had been delivered to the delegates in Spanish and in English and that therefore he is not going to read it in full but will make brief general references thereto. He explains the situation as regards the city planning agencies in the United States with special reference to the City Planning Commission of the City of New York which has a budget of expenditures for this year of close to a million dollars. That many other cities include hundreds of thousands of dollars in their budgets for their planning expenses. That there are several universities offering courses of study and granting degrees on city planning for the purpose of preparing experts on this subject and city planners. He says that it is necessary to have personnel and money in order to be able properly to carry out good city planning. Planning brings advantages that cannot be counted in dollars. In the measure that the cities realize the importance of city planning this has become a political controversial subject. In the United States the development of city planning and its political support has been accompanied by popular support and by the formation of civic groups working on the subject.

He spoke of the development of city planning in the United States and refers in detail to the Housing Act of 1949. How this act operates by assigning funds to the cities for the construction of dwellings and subsidies for reconstruction through private enterprise. He praises the help given by the Federal Government. He then refers generally to what different communities have done in the matter of city planning and the projects that have been carried to conclusion in different cities. He ended by saying that he believes that the way to meet this matter of city planning in the United States may not be applicable to other countries but he believes that some of the problems that have arisen here are the same as some of the problems elsewhere. He refers to the vast project that is being executed in Puerto Rico of constructing low cost houses, the low cost of which has seemed impossible to many constructors in the United States. In closing he makes a general recommendation to the effect that the national governments of America give more aid to the municipalities in carrying out their planning programs and what that aid should consist of, stating that this has been fully covered in the general recommendations of his report.

Mr. Scasso said that the report rendered by Mr. Blucher has been most interesting but that he repeats what he said in the session in which the housing problem was discussed, that something effective should be done, that there should be an effective resolution or recommendation and that this matter of city planning was so closely tied in with that of housing that he suggested a general resolution that might fully take in the viewpoints expressed here and there.

Thereupon, in spite of the fact that the subject under discussion was city planning, the discussion turned more to housing, the delegates of Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Guatemala all speaking on the subject of housing, each one of whom told of what was being done in his country in the matter of city planning in connection with the

construction of adecuate, healthy and safe dwellings. Considerable explanation was made of the dual system in vogue in Puerto Rico where the prospective dweller is given the land under conditions of hygiene and is allowed to construct thereon or move his house from unhealthy zones to the new site; and of the other phase wherein the government supplies the material and machinery and the prospective dweller helps to build his own house, modern, strong and healthy at a very low cost which is paid on easy instalments. Mrs. Felisa Rincon de Gautier, Mayoress of San Juan, Puerto Rico, explains how satisfactory had this dual plan worked out in Puerto Rico and said it was worth while copying in other places.

The delegates of the Dominican Republic and of Guatemala also explained what had been accomplished in their countries, specially under private initiative, and in Guatemala with the aid of the authorities, allowing the people to construct their own houses.

The delegate of El Salvador asked what the minimum standard of safety and health was in the plans for the construction of low cost houses in Puerto Rico and Guatemala, this being explained by the delegates of those countries. Then he said that in El Salvador there were private concerns that were constructing low cost houses on the instalment plan. The delegate from Guatemala explained that the plan that was being carried out in his country was such that the municipality had control over the houses constructed by the people at their own expense and with their own hands by giving them the property free of cost and that in addition to having a minimum of sanitary and safety standards, people were not allowed to construct shacks. The delegates of Ecuador and Brazil also spoke on this subject, the former to say that he congratulated Puerto Rico for its great project of low cost houses and the latter to explain the vast planning projects that are being carried on in his country with the aid of the central government.

His Excellency Ambassador Quintanilla who was present at the session, took part in the discussion not for the purpose of voting or objecting to anything that had been said, but to say how interesting the discussion had seemed to him specially regarding the giving people with little resources a chance to build their own houses with the minimum requirement as to hygiene and safety, with their own materials and labor, as had been stated by the delegates of Guatemala and Puerto Rico, and he spoke of the adobe houses made by the indians in his own country and how strong they were, and that it might be proper for the Congress to adopt some resolution recommending to the countries that they aid their citizens in the construction of their own homes in some manner similar to what had been said at this most interesting session.

Mr. Concha, delegate from Ecuador, congratulated Ambassador Quintanilla for his interesting talk and suggestion, stating that he believed that admirable suggestion was acceptable.

Mr. Zagarzazu, delegate from Venezuela, stated that he found the suggestions made by several delegates very sound and that he wished that the sub-committee that was to be oppointed to draft the resolution or recommendation which was to come forth from this working session and

presented to the plenary session of the Congress, should have something added thereto as to the adoption of measures to prevent erosion and provide reforestation to conserve the green areas of cities, as is being done in Venezuela. That is, that measures be adopted to regulate the problem of reforestation in cities.

The Brazilian delegate also spoke in favor of this motion stating that in his country adequate measures for this purpose had been adopted. The matter was voted upon and approved, after which the meeting was adjourned. See conclusions at the Final Act.

Friday, May, 5, 10:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: *Suggestions for the solution of traffic problems in cities.*
REPORTER: *J. Stannard Baker, U.S.A.*

Mr. Brownlow opened the session, made the routine announcements and turned the chair over to George C. McLean, Mayor of Boniface, Manitoba, Canada.

Mr. McLean declared that for him it was a great honor to act as chairman of this meeting. He said Canada had full understanding of the importance of the Congress and for that reason had sent its observers to take part in it. He added that the traffic problems which would be treated in the meeting were of great concern to Canadian cities, the same as in cities elsewhere, and those present would have the pleasure of hearing one of the men with the most experience on the subject, Mr. Baker, a professor with 28 years of studies on the subject.

Mr. Baker referred in general terms to the big problems of traffic which had come to all the cities of America and the necessity of regulations; and making use of his extensive experience on the subject, he said he had prepared a report, copies of which had been distributed to all of those present; and said that although he had no intention of reading all of it, he would refer to the most important sections.

He said he would not attempt to discuss in detail the traffic problems peculiar to so many cities in the western hemisphere, but would limit himself to discussion of aspects of the situation which were common to a large number of cities, in order to reach conclusions which would be of general usefulness.

He said the problem had two principal aspects: 1. Movement of vehicles which carry persons or freight; 2. Parking of vehicles which are not in movement.

The parking problem is serious, because the more space in the streets used for parking, the less is available for traffic, he pointed out. As for the movement of traffic, the problem was reduced to striking a balance between the speed and free flow of traffic and the number of accidents.

Discussing the mater of accidents, he said the only way to avoid them would be to prohibit all movement; and since that is not possible, it is necessary to strike the balance between the two extremes.

He said statistics alone are not enough to improve traffic conditions; it is necessary to study and act on all the factors which enter into the transport system, which are: 1. The highway; 2. The vehicles; 3. The drivers and the pedestrians.

Also, he added, it is necessary to study and note where and why the accidents occur; and when and how the congestion of traffic causes delays in movement. Adequate mea-

sures include: 1. Definite long range planning; 2. Money; 3. New methods of conduct and a more rational attitude on the part of those who use the streets and highways and the public officials in charge of traffic.

Entering into consideration of the uses of highways and streets, he presented figures on the situation in the United States. He said that, generally speaking, there are no vehicles on the streets and highways except motor vehicles; but that in Latin America, the situation is more serious because there are so many animal-drawn vehicles, carts, and bicycles. He discussed municipal planning in the matter of traffic, use of the streets, parking, etc., and noted that cities in the not distant past had developed vertically with the view of covering a small space, whereas today in the era of the automobile, cities are being decentralized, but where activities are concentrated in a relatively small space, congestion becomes intolerable. He discussed the necessity of establishing highways of continuous movement, spaces for parking outside of the commercial centers but close enough to permit the motorists to reach stores, factories, theatres, etc.

He recommended that streets should have an even number of lanes to indicate favorable conditions for rapid transit, with odd numbers indicating dangerous or congested streets, all of this based on adequate planning.

He proceeded to discuss the matter of traffic engineering. Mr. Baker declared that the best use of streets should be under control of a specialized agency such as a traffic engineering office. He explained that there is such an office in nearly all large cities in United States, and what the duties of a traffic engineer should be, with details treated in the report which he was discussing.

He proceeded to discussion of the vehicles, noting that in the United States defects in the vehicles are blamed for 9% of the accidents, showing the necessity of an adequate inspection service by the municipality with regard to brakes, size, lights, etc. He said it was preferable that this job should be undertaken by the state, but that the cities also should have regulations which were not incompatible with those of the state.

He declared that the human element is the cause of most accidents 78% in the United States— and that this is the most important of the traffic problems. To sum up, he said there must be adequate traffic regulations to control the public. As examples: 1. Municipal traffic regulations should supplement those of the state and not differ from them; 2. City traffic regulations should be uniform, to avoid confusion on the part of visitors; 3. Local regulations should be made known with appropriate signs; 4. Regulations should be applicable generally, not only under certain conditions; and what is most essential, 5. Traffic regulations must be written in plain language, in order that the public may understand them, and must be printed and distributed so that they can be understood by everybody.

Mr. Baker discussed the matter of applying traffic regulations with adequate punishment for offenders, which to be efficient must be at least 10 times greater in the case of accidents where persons are injured or killed; driving licenses which he said should be issued by the state and not the city, and especially on the

necessity for supervision of pedestrians, with signs for their guidance the same as for the drivers. Education and training of drivers was shown to be of first importance, with the city undertaking the job if the state did not. He said there must be coordination between all the agencies concerned with traffic if the results are to be satisfactory. Traffic engineers, the police, teachers and public and private organizations, including the executives of companies controlling large numbers of vehicles, automobile associations, etc., should unite their efforts to improve the situation.

He discussed the professional training of those who were to be the "traffic engineers", noting that in Northwestern University there is a Traffic Institute; in Yale University a Traffic Bureau with courses in traffic engineering; and in New York University a Center for Safety Training, with courses on the various aspects of traffic control. He said there are numerous other regional schools for the expansion of knowledge on this subject.

Mr. Baker said he had arrived at eight conclusions which he would call "suggestions for the control of the traffic problem in cities", which he defined as follows:

1. Organization of a traffic engineering service;
2. Traffic division in police departments;
3. Special rules to cover the judicial aspect of violations of traffic rules;
4. A school program for the training of pedestrians and drivers;
5. Clearly defined traffic regulations;
6. A law requiring all new business establishments to provide off the street parking areas; in addition to the streets;
7. Long range municipal program for main traffic arteries;
8. An organization to coordinate public and private efforts to improve the traffic situation and keep the public informed.

Mr. McLean expressed the opinion that Mr. Baker was to be congratulated for his interesting and practical work and suggested that the delegates ask questions.

Mr. Abel Gutierrez of Chile congratulated Mr. Baker on his admirable work and said his own country was confronting and trying to solve the problem, although not with such inclusive measures as those required in the United States; and said the word "traffic" ought to be replaced with the word "transit", because "traffic" signified something entirely different in Spanish.

Mr. Jose Cuellar of Colombia said the admirable report of Mr. Baker presented the situation as it exists in nearly all the cities of Latin America; and referred to the complete study of the matter which had been made in Bogota, resulting in adoption of a transit code which he considered complete and which consisted of more than 300 articles. He explained that this code is municipal, with the state regulating the highways; that all aspects of the transit problem had been studied, including the accidents and their causes, with severe penalties for violations concerning speed, driving rules, etc. He added that statistics showed that accidents in his country could be wroken down as follows: Excess drinking, 40%; excess speed, 30%; lack of driving experience, 15%; other causes 15%. He said an "alcohol detector" and other scientific

modern methods had been used and he believed that large advances in transit regulation had been made in Bogota. He added that he regretted that he did not have copies of Bogota's modern traffic code but that copies of it would be sent to members of the Congress.

With no further questions or suggestions, the session was adjourned, with conclusions to be drawn up to appear in the final minutes.

Plenary Sessions of the I. C. M.

Tuesday, May 2nd. 10:00 a.m., Inaugural Plenary Session.

The Inaugural Plenary Session of the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities was held at the McAllister Auditorium at Tulane University, under the Presidency of His Excellency mister Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, President of the Republic of Chile.

The President ot Tulane University, Dr. Rufus Harris made the introduction turning the chair over to mister C. C. Walther, President of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce and of the Local Organization Committee. Mr. Walther introduced the representatives of the different nations, the Chiefs of the delegations and other guests who were seated on the stage, introducing them one by one, and speaking words of welcome. He introduced Mr. Louis Brownlow, General Director of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation who was acting as President of the Congress. Mr. Brownlow stated that since it had been impossible for Dr. Antonio Beruff Mendieta, President of the Organization, to attend the meeting, he, by reason of his office, assumed the presidency. He stated that the Congress was honored by the presence of the Honorable Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, President of the Republic of Chile. He spoke briefly on the origin and organization of the intermunicipal movement and of the great interest shown by the Republic of Chile, whose participation in the movement has been notable, since its start; that Architect Mr. Ricardo Gonzalez Cortés, Member of the Executive Committee had been a valuable and untiring worker in this movement and that at the several meetings in Havana of the Executive Committee he was substituted by His Excellency Mr. Emilio Edwards Bello, Ambassador of the Republic of Chile to Cuba. He explained that the Congress renders tribute to the City of New Orleans for its hospitality and speaks of the coincidence that it is meeting here at the same time that its Mayor, a young and outstanding leader in intermunicipal relations is being inaugurated for a second term of office. Thereupon he asked Mayor Morrison to introduce the President of Chile.

Mr. Morrison introduced His Excellency the President of Chile and spoke of the importance of the Congress, as follows:

Words by Mayor Morrison.

A strange and wonderful thing has happened in our time. The direction of world leadership has shifted from Europe to the America. Once we looked to them for guidance in diplomacy, science and social organization. Today they look to us.

They have seen, perhaps better than we, the immense possibilities of our two rich continents; the prospects for development that literally stagger the imagination; the plain facts of geography, economics and social outlook that argue for hemispheric solidarity.

Without seeking it —without wanting it— we in the Americas because of our inherent strength, stand as the leaders of the free world. The question remains: In which direction shall we lead?

We have seen throughout history that loss of personal freedom is preceded by the decay or collapse of local government. It is therefore essential that while state and federal governments take strong measures to deal with great problems, that they do not destroy or seriously weaken the very backbone of democracy —government at the local level.

It is our particular task as municipal officials to make certain this does not happen. Perhaps the best way is to set our own house in order. ... to see to it that order, justice and service are so perfected at home that they are the most forceful arguments against such changes.

With that thought, we of New Orleans welcome you to this Congress with the sincere hope that a lasting contribution toward these ends will be achieved here. We welcome in particular our friend and charming good neighbor from Chile, President Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, whom we are delighted to have in our city, and with us on this platform as a guest of honor.

Certainly New Orleans is an appropriate meeting ground for an Inter-American Congress. Its very appearance is a reminder of home for many of our guests. Our International House is dedicated to the purposes of world peace, trade and understanding. The city government, the Chamber of Commerce, Board of Port Commissioners, and International Trade Mart are playing vital roles in furthering the bonds of friendship with the other cities and nations of the hemisphere.

We take as our text that to know another person is to like him.

Many of our civic leaders have visited your communities and returned home with the warmest feeling for you and your people. I am proud to be known as the most traveled mayor of the United States in the Americas, and I cherish among my dearest friends municipal and civic leaders of all other nations in our hemisphere.

We of New Orleans have been impressed by the tremendous progress being made by the cities of Latin America to the South and Canada to the North. We have learned much about your problems and the measures taken to solve them. We hope to learn more as this Congress proceeds.

With high regard and esteem for all our fellow delegates, and with the knowledge that each has much to contribute to the common good, let us join together in strengthening and improving the framework of municipal cooperation in this great American hemisphere.

It is in this spirit that I extend to each and every one of you the warm and cordial greeting of the citizens of New Orleans, the International City. And closed by stating that he was honored to introduce this Excellency the President of Chile who delivered the following address:

Inaugural address by His Excellency the President of Chile.

By a fortunate coincidence I find myself in this beautiful city, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities, I have accepted with pleasure the honor of being with you on such a significant occasion and to occupy this rostrum for a few minutes, with the thought of offering Chile's encouragement for the task in which you are engaged.

Another coincidence that I should mention is the fact that the first formal movement to this cooperation among the municipalities of America was made at the Fifth International American Conference held at Santiago de Chile in 1923. That memorable assembly adopted a resolution proposed by the Cuban Delegation, under which the American Governments were recommended to make use of adequate means for bringing closer together the municipalities of each country and to endeavor to facilitate to the national municipalities the manner of entering into relations with the municipalities of the other American countries. The resolution had in mind the lofty ideals of continental fraternity and also the advantages that might be derived from the experience.

Thus, gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me, as President of Chile, to take part in this solemn act to which my country feels closely attached by that circumstance worthy of being remembered.

Since the Santiago Resolution the movement of intermunicipal cooperation in America has been developing with plausible activity and positive results. We must all recognize that our sister Republic of Cuba has made special efforts to advance the original idea, succeeding in having it accepted by the body of the extinguished League of Nations at Geneva, and five years later, obtaining from the Sixth International American Conference held in Havana in 1928, a resolution under whose terms the Pan American Union was charged with the duty of organizing the First Pan American Congress of Municipalities, which Congress was held in Havana in 1938, and where 141 municipalities were represented. The Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, to which Chile has given its permanent support was created there.

And gentlemen, here I find a third coincidence. The Second Inter-American Congress of Municipalities was held, as you all know, at Santiago de Chile, from December 15th to 21st, 1941. The Government of my country and the Municipality of Santiago took great effort in facilitating the holding of the Congress and in entertaining the 292 delegates of the 19 sister republics that attended.

On this occasion it was determined that the Third Congress should be held in New Orleans, a decision that is being fulfilled to-day with singular brilliance within an atmosphere of good neighborliness which Mayor Morrison and his collaborators have wisely created since several years back.

New Orleans, on the banks of the legendary Mississippi, is the frontier between the Anglo-Saxon world and the Latin world of the American Continent. The Latin origin of these surroundings is harmoniously combined with the Anglo-Saxon and cosmopolitan order of this immense and powerful country which due to the wisdom of its Constitution and of

its laws, maintains a close union between the 48 States that constitute it.

But here, in New Orleans we find something that allows one to look closer upon Latin-America; something that makes the horizon to the South more transparent and gives the feeling of a large door open to the friendship of the Americans from the North and the Americans from the rest of our America.

Permit me, gentlemen, to congratulate you warmly for the work you have done and to wish you the greatest success in your task. This Congress is a step further toward the purposes of cooperation that are sought for the common improvement of the municipal institution in all our countries.

Half a century ago Chile established the autonomous commune, to a great extent following the example of the United States. It was a substantial and risky reform, with economic and social projections of great importance in a country of modest resources and of a complicated political procedure. We did not know for sure whether what was good in a nation of certain juridical and racial characteristics would be equally good in another with different conditions. After the sensational reform was adopted we have seen by the passage of time that municipal autonomy has been advantageous for the aggregate of Chilean communities and that the exceptional defects in the operation of the system admit a gradual rectification.

We have also seen that the municipality in itself, as a traditional institution inherited from Spain, and the municipality with its new attributes of autonomy, is a school of civics, of sound rivalry with the spirit of progress, of the exercise of the right of suffrage and of dignification of the citizen.

There are many public men in my country, just as occurs in other countries represented here, who have started their political careers in the municipalities or have ended them in the same. In Chile I am acquainted with ex-Ministers of State who after holding such high office accepted the honor of being aldermen in large or small municipalities. But the most beautiful instance of this kind is that of the ex President of Chile, Don Jorge Montt. This illustrious Chief Magistrate, member of our glorious Navy, after having been President of the Republic, during his years of retirement was for a long time Mayor of the Municipality of Valparaiso. And I wish to tell you that if Destiny in the future should reserve to me the privilege of continuing to serve my country, my great ambition would be to be the Mayor of La Serena, the city of my birth, which is one of the most beautiful and restful places in Chile, and which just as New Orleans has done has maintained the architectural balance between the beauty of the ancient city and the progressive impulse of what is new.

By this I believe that I am expressing the full concept of the admiration I have for the old institution that is the municipality, which is the same concept had by all my fellow citizens.

To the municipality are attached different community interests having to do with culture, health, business and the security of the inhabitants of every city. Its sphere of action is not the same in the different countries of America. Neither is the degree of their economic and financial autonomy, which is variable even within the same national territory. But the

substance of the municipal organization is identical everywhere and from it are gathered the beneficent fruits of administrative state decentralization. The power of the municipality eliminates, to a great degree, the inconveniences of centralized statism; it distributes the responsibilty for the internal management of the nation in a rational and equitable manner, giving a direct participation in community affairs to a larger number of citizens.

In Chile, for many years back, we granted the right of municipal suffrage to alien residents, and we also granted then the right of being elected members of the body of aldermen. It did not seem just that an alien, a member of the community society, should be deprived of taking an active part in the progress of the community wherein he resides.

The present right of political suffrage which is enjoyed by Chilean women was first tested by us by granting them the right to municipal suffrage, and I am pleased to affirm that several women have distinguished themselves as efficient Mayoresses in different municipalities.

Gentlemen, I appreciate the honor that you have afforded me of receiving me in this important assembly. I know that the success of your deliberations and resolutions will be the result of your prudent and wise action. We will all reap the advantages on inter-American municipal cooperation; and if there is something that I can promise you, it is that Chile, as far as is incumbent upon the Executive Power, will continue to offer its contribution to the normal development of this most useful movement, inspired in the purest principles of freedom and genuine democracy.

Tuesday, May 2nd, 3:00 p.m.

Second Plenary session.

The meeting was called to order by the acting President, General Director Mr. Louis Brownlow, explaining that he held the chair because the President, Dr. Antonio Beruff Mendieta, to whom is due the effective start of this movement on intermunicipal cooperation, when in 1938, while he was Mayor of Havana, obtained from the City Council of that city the necessary appropriations and convened the municipalities of America to the First Pan American Congress of Municipalities in fulfilment of the Resolution adopted by the Sixth International American Conference, where he was elected President, in which office he was ratified by the Second Inter-American Congress of Municipalities held at Santiago de Chile in 1941, has been unable to attend.

Message from Dr. Beruff Mendieta.

That it is proper to state here that Dr. Beruff Mendieta was the motor that put this organization in movement and that during all these years it has received the valuable contribution of his inspiration and high sense of public service, always giving his collaboration with great modesty and altruism as is shown by these words that I am taking from his letter addressed to the Secretary, Dr. Carlos M. Moran: "Only matters that I cannot postpone prevent me from attending the Congress. The movement takes on a new phase and will be in the expert hands of its founders and genuine promoters and in those of the persons who are to give it a new impulse and new enthusiasm, which is proper in those that are iniciated in a task of this kind.

Kindly accept these simple lines as the most sincere acknowledgment of your collaboration as well as having been, in the company of Mr. Brownlow the untiring supporters of Pan American Intermunicipal Cooperation. With my affection for all of you I beg of you to extend a cordial greeting and to give my excuse to all the persons attending the Third Meeting".

Cable from the Mayor of Havana.

Mr. Brownlow advised the meeting that the Mayor of Havana, doctor Jose Diaz Garrido, member of the Executive Committee had been unable to attend and had sent the following cablegram: "I regret that official matters require my presence here preventing me from attending the Third Meeting of the Congress for the success of which I express my great desire. I have delegated in Dr. Carlos M. Moran, Legal Adviser of this office and Secretary of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation who is with you to represent me and the municipality. Cordial greetings to all with a message of reaffirmation for the maintenance and success of intermunicipal cooperation which originated in a resolution of our City Council and which has always been maintained with special care by this City of Havana".

Message from Arch González Cortés (Chile).

The Chairman, Mr. Brownlow then proceeded to read the following message from Mr. Ricardo Gonzalez Cortés, member of the Executive Committee and Ex President of the Second Inter-American Congress of Municipalities:

On a day like to-day which Providence will provide for adopting the proper path and the destiny of the peoples of America, which will undoubtedly be clear and beautiful, in a harmonious atmosphere of confraternity, there are meeting in the historical city of New Orleans whose destinies are directed by Mayor De Lesseps Morrison, messengers of all the municipalities of the Continent, soundly inspired in a strong emotion of the public welfare and imbuted with municipal rebirth toward victory through the able Official Agenda which inspires an effective mission: technical, administrative and financial.

And in a general way, everything that leads to the greater efficiency in complicated public services which thus form the fundamental basis of municipal democracy in our times.

Without fear of discrepancies, the elements of judment that are contained in the four subjects which in due course merited the approval of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, which will be submitted to the careful and sound deliberations of the Congress, in spite of their several references and different viewpoints will make it possible for a brilliant and well founded conception of ideas to place before the eyes of the members of the Congress the marvels of our present civilization. A marvellous spectacle in which the rank and grandeur of the cities will be shown as they are and will display the great changes that are taking place in the world of to-day, making us enthusiastic at the era of the modern city following a new rythm which will make men stronger and less selfish, and through this medium will contribute to happiness in the home, to the much sought improvement of the family and

to the progress and welfare of our countries which are at all times hopeful of conquering a better world.

However it should not be thought that we are underestimating the excellencies and advantages of country life which exalts the men living in the valleys and mountains, because all of them are joined in the eternal stage of ancestral struggles as a synthesis of the progress and noble conquests of civilization.

In this hour of great joy which the Hemisphere is now going through, before the emotive majesty of the presence of the flags of all the nations of America, in expressing the first steps of their deliberations, in the success of which all the municipalities of the Continent are attentive, it is a fact that the clear spirit of collaboration and of fraternity of these countries places the initial outcome of this ceremony in the hands of our distinguished fellow citizen and Chief Magistrate of the small and Southernmost of the South American Republics.

His lofty investiture of the maximum authority, a young and studious man who is aware of the fact that the present times require responsible and able men, are qualities in him which make understood our desires for the replanning and embelishment of our cities and that his experience has shown that the earth has a social function to perform and that it is also the patrimony that leads to the need to strengthen the peace of the humble and of the workers.

His presence in this seat of activities and of municipal endeavors is fully justified because His Excellency has been an untiring forger of the just demands which suggest structural changes in communities for their collective welfare and which in this hour of doubt stand out as if derived from an eulogy of America.

Mr. President of the Third Pan American Congress of Municipalities, Fellow Delegates:

The South American municipalities that I represent on the Executive Committee of the Pan American Commission, The National Union of Chilean Municipalities and the Commission of Delegates of which the Mayors of the largest cities of Chile, Valparaiso and Vina del Mar are members, have placed upon me on this occasion the pleasant duty of bringing to the Congress a message that interprets the sincere "good neighborliness" and the wish for the success of the same, and the serious duty of endeavoring to fulfil this task before the brother delegates that are meeting here.

Finally, being a municipal architect, I fully understand the panorama of the city just as do many of our colleagues that have always worked with us and shares the tasks of planning and urbanism with its problems and anxieties that are present when seeking the improvement and reformation of the structure of the very old cities of America. And using the language of the heart and of the spirit we will repeat the words of the great Argentinian thinker and leader. Lo Valvo: "the time will come —and not far distant— when the world will become astonished at having looked with indifference, and at times with sarcasm and aggression, at the gifts and triumphs of that extraordinary discipline; in which the streets, the plazas, the fountains, begin to reveal their hidden secrets to us, an begin to speak to us in their captivating and beneficent language".

The Chairman, Mr. Brownlow stated that in accord with the Regulations for this Third Meeting lots were to be drawn for the appointment of the Vice-Presidents of this meeting,

so that the chiefs of delegations of each country might take the chair in the order in which their countries were drawn by lot. The Secretary proceeded to do this with the assistance of Mr. John J. Kennedy.

Order of election of Vice-Presidents.

1. Haiti, 2. Bolivia, 3. United States of America, 4. Peru, 5. Chile, 6 Venezuela, 7. Uruguay, 8. Panama, 9. Argentina, 10. Canada, 11. Brazil, 12. Colombia, 13. El Salvador, 14 Dominican Republic, 15. Ecuador, 16. Paraguay, 17. Honduras, 18. Guatemala, 19. Mexico, 20. Nicaragua, 21. Costa Rica and 22 Cuba.

After the drawing was held and in their respective order the gentlemen named below were called by the Secretary, Dr. Moran to take their places at the presidential board:

1. P. B. Clemenceau.
2. Jesus Aspiazu.
3. Herbert Emmerich.
4. Oscar Freyre.
5. Augusto Pumarino.
6. Federico A. Ponce.
7. Juan A. Scasso.
8. Alberto Navarro.
9. Alejandro Orfila.
10. George McLean.
11. Antonio Pezzolo.
12. Pablo Bernal Restrepo.
13. Luis Nuila López.
14. Virgilio Alvarez Sánchez.
15. Jorge Concha.
16. Agustin E. Pradillo.
17. Roberto Ugarte.
18. Juan Ibarra.
19. Rafael Ximenes Castro.
20. Sra. Josefa Toledo de Aguerri.
21. Joaquín Lizano B.
22. Carlos Maruri.

Their Excellencies Messrs. Luis Quintanilla, President of the Organization of American States and Paul C. Daniels, Ambassador of the United States of America before said organization also occupied places of honor together with the representatives of the national governments Messrs: Octavio Allende, of Chile; Jose M. Cuellar, of Colombia; Antonio Bruzon, of Cuba; German Cruz Ayala, of the Dominican Republic; Manuel R. Villacorta, of El Salvador and Juan Brin, Jr., of Panama.

The Chairman, Mr. Brownlow advised the Assembly that in accord with Article XVII of the Regulations for these meetings, the members of the Executive Committee of the Organization and the Vice-Presidents of the Congress would make up the Committe on Initiatives, Coordination and Resolutions, the same to be presided over by the President of the Congress and will examine the projects and propositions that are to be submitted to the same and will coordinate the activities of the different committees in which it may be divided or that are appointed to carry on particular phases of its affairs. He likewise advised that a Credentials Committee had been appointed in fulfilment of the second paragraph or Article V of the Regulations as well as a Drafting Committee as provided in Article XVIII; that the Credentials Committee was made up by Messrs. Daniel W. Hoan, Chairman; José M. Monasterio and Carlos M. Moran; and the Drafting Committee by Messrs Rowland Egger, Chairman; Jose M. Cuellar, Ismael Puerta Flores, Virgilio Alvarez Sanchez and Mrs. Felisa Rincon de Gautier.

The Chairman, Mr. Brownlow asked Mr. Hoan to present the report of the Credentials Committee, which was done Mr. Hoan Stating that the credentials of the persons that had registred in the Congress were in

order and that there was no objection to be made.

Thereupon the Chairman asked the assembly to submit any project of resolution or initiative to the respective Commission, by delivering the project at the Secretariat.

Following the Order of the Day the Chairman asked Dr. Moran to render his report as Secretary of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation. Dr. Carlos M. Moran stated that in view of the short time available for all the work of the Congress and there having been profusely distributed a pamphlet containing the history of everything that had been done to the present time, he begged those present to accept the same in lieu of his report.

The Chairman asked Mr. P. B. Clemenceau to take the chair since he had to leave the room for a few minutes.

Thereupon Mr. Juan A. Scasso occupied the rostrum in representation of South America, and in beautiful words extended cordial greetings to all the delegates to the Congress, expressing the interest of all the South American municipalities, specially those of his country, Uruguay, in the success of the work of this meeting and for the reaffirmation of this work of intermunicipal cooperation, so that its beneficent results might reach all the municipalities and specially those which due to their few economic resources were in greater need of this mutual assistance; that he was highly pleased at having been chosen as one of the speakers of the afternoon but that he did not wish to make a long speech since he believed the essential thing for these meetings was to engage in serious and careful work on the technical subjects included in the agenda, since from those papers useful conclusions could be derived for the local governments.

The acting chairman, Mr. Clemenceau of Haiti, gave the floor to mister George McLean so that he might speak in behalf of the Canadian municipalities. Mr. McLean proceeded to read the following paper:

In my capacity as President of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities I bring you warm and cordial greetings from the mayors and municipal officials of Canada.

It is also with great pleasure that I convey to you the friendly greetings and best wishes of the Prime Minister of Canada Rt. Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent. In a message sent to me a few days before my departure for New Orleans, he wrote as follows:

Message from the Hon. Prime Minister of Canada.

"I have learned with interest that you are heading a delegation of Canadian Mayors attending the Third Inter-American Congress of Municipalities at New Orleans from May 2 to 5. I should appreciate it if you would accept for yourself and kindly convey to the host of the Congress, Mayor deLesseps S. Morrison, and to the other representatives of South, Central and North American Cities who will be present my cordial greetings and best wishes on this occasion. This international gathering of Mayors to consider common problems of municipal administration will, I am sure, serve not only to eliminate many of these problems but to strengthen the ties which bind all the Americas together in a wide fraternity of friendly nations".

From the letter of our Prime Minister, and in virtue of the presence at

this meeting to-day of my colleague Mayor Garnet Coulter of Winnipeg and myself, you will gather, I am sure, that we in Canada are greatly interested in a closer fraternal bond between our country and democratic countries everywhere.

We are particularly desirous to see develop a closer working relationship between the municipal governments of Canada and the municipal governments of the Western Atlantic region. To which end, we believe it desirable that, from time to time, meetings should be held of representative municipal leaders to allow for an exchange of views and experience with regard to matters affecting civic affairs and municipal administration.

This Inter-American Congress of Municipalities performs such a function. As such it is rendering a useful service to municipal governments in North, Central and South America. Canada, as you probably know, is not a member of the Pan-American Union. This does not, however, prevent our being present here to-day, both in our individual capacity and as official delegates of the cities and towns of Canada; nor does it preclude our full participation in your deliberations.

It is a moving and thrilling experience to meet face to face with the municipal leaders of other countries and to talk with them about our common problems. That is the formal reason for this meeting and it is quite evident that that aim is already in full process of realization. But underneath the stated objectives of this Inter-American Congress of Municipalities lies a deeper motive for our coming together.

We are here, and I am sure everyone of you is here because, deep in our hearts, we Canadians want to understand and be understood by the peoples of other countries. We who are gathered here to-day may speak different languages and our cultural traditions may spring from different roots but, fundamentally, our personal, domestic and international aspirations are the same.

We seek a peaceful world. We seek for our respective nations an orderly society where the play of democratic forces can progressively achieve a better and higher standard of living. We seek for ourselves and for our families the widest freedom, happiness and security and we desire that for all people everywehere.

We believe, moreover, that, in the achieving of these desirable ends, the municipal governments in a democratic country have a large and significant role to play. It is important, therefore, that there be the freest possible exchange of views and experience among the municipal leaders of the democratic nations.

This Inter-American Congress of Municipalities provides such an opportunity and, for this reason, we are pleased to be present and to have the privilege of listening to and participating in the interesting program which has been arranged.

It is an occasion which not only inspires us to quicken our efforts to the end that municipal government shall better serve the interests and welfare of the people of Canada; but, what is equally important, it affords us the opportunity of benefitting from the knowledge and experience of others. Through the sharing of ideas and the exchange of experience about our common problems, the municipal governments of those coun-

tries represented here to-day will have been alerted to the developments taking place elsewhere. They will thus be better informed and being better informed they will be that much more competent to deal with these problems as they arise in their respective communities.

Meetings of this sort are in the interest of good municipal government and we Canadians are delighted to have the privilege of being present.

After Mr. McLean had finished, Mr. Clemenceau of Haiti, the acting Chairman asked Mr. Herbert Emmerich to speak in behalf of the municipalities of the United States.

Message from the A.E.I.M.C.

Mr. Emmerich stated that he was not the representative of the United States of America but that he brought to the Congress the good wishes and cordial greetings of all the delegates of the American Committee for International Municipal Cooperation which he had the honor to preside over, this entity being made up of a group of technical organizations dedicated to the study and solution of the different problems of public administration, specially in the sphere of municipal government, among which was the American Municipal Association.

He explained that this committee which until the beginning of this year was known as the American Committee for the Union of Local Authorities had always taken a great interest in the work of intermunicipal cooperation in connection with the organization that existed in Brussels and is now at The Hague and also with this organization which has its seat at Havana; that in the measure of its possibilities it has given the greatest support that it has been able to give on every occasion and that he can affirm, due to the many years that he has been in direct contact with this type of movement, that it is of great utility and benefit for facilitating a rapid knowledge and understanding of the progress that has been made, in order to familiarize the municipal officials with their colleagues of other places, their problems and the different methods of solution that have been put into practice, through which activity a close and cordial friendship will be built up among those who have charge of the direction of local public affairs.

Mr. Emmerich told those present that he was the bearer of a cordial message from the International Union of Local Authorities to which he had previously referred, signed by mister H. D. Revers which he was going to read and which is as follows:

Message from the I.U.L.A.

"Dear Mr. Emmerich: In reply to an invitation to the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities we wrote to Dr. Carlos M. Moran, Secretary of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, that we would not be able to send a delegate from Europe to the Congress, but that we would ask one of our American members to represent us.

"We therefore write to you as President of the American Committee for International Municipal Cooperation to ask you whether you would be so kind as to address the meeting in our name, expressing the wish that the ties between the Pan American Committee and the I.U.L.A., will grow stronger and stronger. We hope indeed that the Meeting will be a great success.

"May we ask you another thing? We should like to publish a short report on the meeting in the June

issue of the I. U. L. A. Bulletin, which is to go to press towards May 15th. You would oblige us very much by sending us such a report.

"Thanking you in advance, we remain. Yours sincerely. *International Union of Local Authorities,* H. J. D. Revers".

The acting Chairman asked the next delegate in turn-to act as Chairman to do so. This was done by Mr. Julio Azpiazu of Bolivia.

Mr. P. B. Clemenceau (Haiti) then spoke for the purpose of transmitting to all the delegates the cordial greetings of the municipalities and municipal officials of his country as well as their wishes for the success of the Congress. He stated that his country had always contributed to the maintenance and progress of this work of intermunicipal cooperation and that it would surely continue to do so with same decisive interest.

The acting Chairman, Mr. Jesus Azpiazu of Bolivia, asked Mr. Rafael Ximenez Castro of Mexico to address the meeting, which he did by reading the following words:

It is a high honor for me to have been so kindly invited, in my capacity of Mexican Consul, to attend this Third Meeting of the Inter American Congress of Municipalities. I personally wish that the deliberations that are to be carried on here will reap beneficial fruits for the municipalities of the countries of this great Continent. I am convinced that your task is a gigantic one, but I am also sure that the final result will be of great usefulness for our respective countries and that the names of all of you will be engraved in the memory of the future generations. Again allow me to wish you full success in your deliberations".

Message from the B.A.M.

Engineer Mr. Antonio Pezzolo, Delegate of the Brazilian Association of Municipalities and of the Municipal Prefecture of Santo Andre, State of São Paolo, Brazil, read the following paper:

"In behalf of the Brazilian Association of Municipalities which I have the honor to represent, and of the Municipality of Santo Andre of the State of San Pablo, Brazil, of which I am a delegate, I wish to express my joy at being with you. We greet this noble and beautiful city and specially the dynamic Mayor of this marvellous city of New Orleans, mister DeLesseps S. Morrison, who has received us fraternally as the seat of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities.

"This greeting is also extended to the other representatives of our brother countries, studious men of good will, filled with faith in the municipal principles who, giving their best experience and practice which they have received in the complex field of municipal activities, are also trying, through these congresses, with maximum loyalty and sincerity, to create with solid foundations, the bonds of an effective and enduring continental union.

"In order to reach a strong and united America we should practice real municipalism because this means providing with more and more efficiency for education, health, housing, transportation, city planning, etc., and by doing this we will be developing resources for better living conditions in our countries and at the same time increasing their intellectual and moral level.

"And it is also an honor for me officially to present to this great gathering, in behalf of the Brazilian

Association of Municipalities, the Charter of Declaration of Principles, Rights and Municipal Demands which resulted from the joining of the efforts of more than 1600 Brazilian municipalities which, by first holding local congresses, regional meetings and later state congresses, finally held the First National Congress of Brazilian Municipalities at the City of Petropolis, from April 1 to 9 of this year, where, with a great proof of united action and faith in municipalistic ideas, the measures of an objective order demanded by the Brazilian municipalities became a reality.

"With the faith that brought us to this land, let us sincerely express the wish that the work of this Congress will be fruitful and productive, and since we have already realized the great ability of its members we do not hesitate to affirm that its results will be most beneficial to all of us, in the assurance that the desires of the American communities will be realized.

"We are already united by the continuity of the soil that extends from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego and therefore let us strengthen these bonds spiritually by cultivating and encouraging our common sentiments and getting closer and closer to our hearts."

Messages of greetings and excuse were presented from the folowing persons: Dr. Luis L. Boffi (Buenos Aires, Argentina); Dr. Héctor Romero Menéndez (Guayaquil, Ecuador); M. Raphael Brouard (Port-au-Prince, Haiti); Prof. Rafael Xavier (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); Sr. Henrique Luis Roman, Mayor of Cartagena (Colombia); Mr. Michael D. Disalle, Mayor of Toledo (Ohio); Sr. Joaquín Lizano Bonilla, Governor and Municipal Executive of San José (Costa Rica); General Martínez, Mayor of Lima (Perú); Mr. Thomas L. Cummings, Mayor of Nashville (Tennessee); and, Mr. John M. Ducey, Executive Director of the National Association of Housing Officials, in the name of the President of said Organization, Mr. Robinson.

The Chairman, Mr. Jesus Aspiazu, asked if any other delegate wished to speak and there being no response, the meeting was adjourned.

Friday, May 5, 3:00 p.m.

Closing Plenary Session

Mr. Louis Bronlow president with Dr. Carlos M. Morán acting as Secretary.

1. *Report of the Initiatives Committee.*

The Secretary reported on proceed ings and agreements in the special meeting held the previous evening.

Mr. Brownlow said the first matter to be dealt with was discussion and approval of the Statutes, as they had been modified and approved by acclamation at the previous meeting.

Mr. Brin, Jr. (Panama) proposed that they be approved by acclamation, with all delegates standing; and with all delegates expressing their approval by rising, the chairman declared that they were approved.

Words by N.E. Amb. Quintanilla.

Mr. Luis Quintanilla (O. A. S.) took the floor to congratulate the organizers for the success of the Congress. He reviewed the difficulties of the Pan American Union at its inception. He declared the organization is unique and the pioneer on the municipal level; that it would prosper and unlike congresses of nations, the next Congress of this organization would be attended by thousands of

delegates from the cities of America. He reiterated his sympathy for its work and pledged his support for it in the Council of the Organization of American States to obtain all the assistance that could be useful. He spoke of the pyramid of democracy, declaring that success must crown this work because the base of this pyramid is the municipality.

Mr. Jorge Concha (Ecuador) proposed, and it was approved by acclamation, that the statutes which had just been approved be called the "Carta de Nueva Orleans", in English the "Act of New Orleans".

2. *Report of the Drafting Committee.*

The Chairman called on Mr. Rowland Egger, who said the report of his committee could be divided into three parts: 1) Resolutions of general nature; 2) Technical resolutions; 3) Resolutions of a special character.

The resolutions were read and submitted to the consideration of those present, and approved in the following order as written in the Final Act.

I. *Democracy and Home Rule.*

Mr. Daniel W. Hoan took the floor to explain that the contents of this resolution are the product of experience and had already been approved by the American Committee for International Municipal Cooperation. The resolution was also praised by Mrs. Felisa Rincon de Gautier (Puerto Rico) and approved by acclamation, for which reason it appears in the Final Act in first place as a preamble to the new Statutes approved by this Organization.

II. *Statutes of the Inter-American Municipal Organization.*

III. *Relations between municipalities and higher government levels, especially as regards finance.*

IV. *Activities and functions of municipalities in the solution of the housing problem.*

V. *Municipal planning.*

VI. *Traffic problems in cities.*

VII. *Contribution of the municipalities of America to the erection of the Columbus Memorial Lighthouse in Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic.*

VIII. *Establishment of municipal offices of cultural interchange.*

IX. *Instruction in municipal goverment and law.*

X. *Cultural delegations.*

XI. *Promotion of inter-American tourism.*

XII. *Acknowledgement to the President of Chile.*

XIII. *Acknowledgement of telegram from President Truman.*

XIV. *Acknowledgement to the Prime Minister of Canada.*

XV. *Acknowledgement to Organization of American States.*

XVI. *Acknowledgement to the United States Department of State.*

XVII. *Acknowledgement to the National Governments of the Americas.*

XVIII. *Acknowledgement to contrib utors.*

XIX. *Acknowledgement to the City of New Orleans and cooperating agencies and institutions.*

XX. *Acknowledgement to Rapporteurs and others who*

prepared materials for the Congress.

XXI. *Invitation to Canadian municipalities.*

XXII. *Congratulations and invitation to the Brazilian Association of Municipalities.*

XXIII. *Acknowledgement to Dr. Antonio Beruff Mendieta.*

XXIV. *Acknowledgement to Mr. Louis Browlow.*

XXV. *Acknowledgement to Public Administration Clearing House.*

XXVI. *Acknowledgement of invitations for the seat of the Fourth Meeting.*

XXVII. *Acknowledgement for work in preparation of Statutes.*

XXVIII. *Acknowledgement to the International Union of Local Authorities.*

XXIX. *Acknowledgement to Mr. John J. Kennedy.*

XXX. *Acknowledgement to the Secretariat.*

Parchment to Mr. Morrison

The Chairman, Mr. Brownlow, informed those present that the Session would be interrupted for a few moments for the presentation by the Mayor of Oakland, California, of a parchment from the American Municipal Association to the Mayor of New Orleans.

The delegates rose to applaud the presentation to the Honorable Mr. deLesseps S. Morrison by Mr. Clifford E. Rishell, in the name of the Association, of a handsome parchement, framed, which said:

Resolution adopted at the 1949 A.M.A. Conference in Cleveland.

"Whereas, one year ago the American Municipal Association adopted a specific program of action to help solve the most pressing problems of thousands of communities, and

"Whereas, Mayor deLesseps S. Morrison of New Orleans was elected to lead this movement, and

"Whereas, under his direction the American Municipal Association has experienced one of the most successful years in its history, and

"Whereas, as a direct result of the policies carried out by Mayor Morrison, communities have received substantial financial aid, and

"Whereas, under his leadership a nation-wide movement has developed to achieve home rule for cities and village, and

"Whereas, under the custom of the American Municipal Association the presidential term of this organization is limited to one year.

"Now, therefor, be it resolved, that we the board of trustees of the American Municipal Association do hereby express the deep appreciation of 10,000 communities throughout the United States to Mayor Morrison for the distinguished manner in which he acted as spokesman and leader for municipal government in the United States during the year 1949".

3. *Report on invitations for the IV Inter-American Congress of Municipalities.*

The chairman called on Mr. Abel Gutiérrez, personal representative of the member of the Executive Committee representing South American cities, the architect Ricardo González Cortés, to present this report.

Mr. Gutiérrez said the following invitations had been received:

1. From Elmer E. Robinson, Mayor of San Francisco, California, U. S. A.

2. From Albert E. Cobo, Mayor of Detroit, Michigan, U. S. A., with the endorsement and supports of G. Mennen Williams, governor of Michigan; Harvey Campbell, executive vice president of the Commercial Council of Detroit; J. Lee Barrett, executive vice president of the Conventions Bureau, Detroit; G. Merril Lennox, executive secretary of the Council of Churches, Detroit; Roy W. Gifford, president of the Committee on World Affairs of the Commercial Council, Detroit; and Fred H. Rollins, Jr., president of the Rotary Club, Detroit.

3. From Juan A. Scasso, delegate from Uruguay, on behalf of the city of Montevideo.

4. From Lucien Borne, mayor of the city of Quebec, Canada.

Mr. Edward R. Roybal, member of the City Council of Los Angeles, California, asked permission to state that on behalf of his city, he also would offer an invitation for the Fourth meeting or any later session.

Mr. Abel Gutiérrez informed the assembly that in the meeting held the previous evening by the Pan American Commission, the delegates of the national governments and the presidents of the municipal delegations had accepted the principle of rotation and had agreed to submit to consideration of this plenary meeting the acceptance of the invitation from Montevideo as the seat for the meeting of 1952; and if this were approved it would be with thanks for all the other invitations received.

The charirman, Mr. Brownlow, submitted the question and it was approved by acclamation.

Mr. Juan A. Scasso expressed the thanks on behalf of his city.

Another speaker was Nestor E. Figueiredo (Brazil), who expressed his gratification that the Fourth Meeting should be held in Montevideo; and adding that many of the principles contained in the resolutions approved by the Congress were already in practice in his country.

4. *Report of the Nominating Committee.*

The chairman, Mr. Brownlow, stated that in accordance with the by-laws just approved, the election of the President of the organization should result in the selection of the chief executive officer of the city in which the meeting was being held; the vice president should be the executive of the city in which the next meeting was to be held; that it would be necessary also to elect a delegate from the country in which the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities had been held; and also a general secretary.

In view of these statutes and accepting the general sentiments of the Congress, the Committee offered the following candidates:

For President, the Mayor of New Orleans, Mr. DeLesseps S. Morrison; for vice president, the Mayor of Montevideo (Uruguay); for delegate to the Executive Committee for the city in which the previous meeting had been held, the Mayor of Santiago de Chile; and for general secretary, Dr. Carlos M. Morán.

After reading of these nominations, the assembly approved them by acclamation.

Mr. Brownlow turned the chair over to Mr. Morrison, who expressed his thanks for his election and promised to do his utmost during his

term of office that the organization should prosper.

Mr. Augusto Pumarino (Chile) went to the chair and placed on the lapel of Mr. Morrison's coat the emblem of member of the city Council of Valparaiso as a symbol of inter-American fraternity.

Mr. Nuila López, (El Salvador) proposed one minute of silence as a tribute to Washington, Morazan and Bolivar, great men of America who had fought for the union of all peoples.

The delegates rose for one minute of standing silence.

Mr. Brin (Panama) asked that a similar moment of silence be given as tribute to the man who he said was the greatest champion of democracy, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The delegates observed a minute of silence.

The chairman, DeLesseps S. Morrison, pronounced the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities adjourned. He invited the delegates to sign the Final Act and afterwards attend the party to be given in the ball room of the hotel.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Sunday, April 30th, 6:00 p.m.

Reception at the New Orleans Country Club.

On this hour the social events of the Congress were inaugurated with a magnificent reception held at the New Orleans Country Club, offered by Mr. Theodore Brent, President of the Mississippi Shipping Company, Inc., (Delta Line), in honor of the Delegates.

At this reception the President of the Venezuelan Delegation, Mr. Federico A. Ponce, President of the Municipal Council of Caracas, presented Mr. De Lesseps S. Morrison, Mayor of New Orleans, with a valuable gift consisting of a miniature reproduction made of Venezuelan gold, of the mace of the ancient cabildo of Caracas.

Mr. Virgilio Alvarez Sánchez, President of the District of Santo Domingo, presented Mayor Morrison with a beautiful reproduction of the standard of the first Dominican city.

In connection with these beautiful gestures of the delegations from Venezuela and the Dominican Republic, expressions of cordiality and inter-municipal fraternity were exchanged between Messrs Ponce, Alvarez Sánchez and Morrison.

Monday, May 1st, 7:00 p.m.

Banquet held in honor of Hon. de Lesseps S. Morrison

A banquet was held in honor of Mr. De Lesseps S. Morrison, Mayor of New Orleans and the new members of the Municipal Council, to which the Delegates to the Congress were invited, which banquet was tendered by the Young Men's Business Club and in which the following program was followed: The National Anthem; Invocation By Rev. Dr. Julián B. Fiebelman, Rabbi of Sinai Temple; an address by the Master of Ceremonies Mr. Henry Weil Jr., introduction of the guests; an address by Mayor De Lesseps S. Morrison; an address in behalf of the guests by the Honorable Mr.

Hale Boggs, member of the House of Representatives from the Second Congressional District of Louisiana, and the blessing delivered by the Right Reverend Monsignor Lucien J. Caillouet, P. A., Vicar General of the Archidiosis of New Orleans.

Tuesday, May 2nd, 11:00 a.m.

Reception at Universities

A reception was tendered by the Tulane and Loyola Universities at "Marquette Hall" of Loyola University in honor of His Excellency the President of Chile and the Delegates to the Congress.

Tuesday, May 2nd, 12:30 p.m.

Luncheon tendered by the Civic Organizations of the City of New Orleans in honor of the Delegates to the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities.

This luncheon was presided over by Mr. Daniel W Hoan, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The speaker's table was occupied by the following gentlemen: Pablo Bernal Restrepo, Mayor of Medellin, Colombia; Garnet Coulter, Mayor of Winnipeg, Canada; Juan Scasso, personal representative of the Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay; Elmer Robinson, Mayor of San Francisco, California; Juan Ibarra, Municipal Councilman and Chief of the delegation from Guatemala; Louis Brownlow, General Director of the Organization; Augusto Pumarino, Regidor of Valparaiso, Chile; Abel Gutiérrez Aguilera, personal representative of Mr. Ricardo González Cortés; Herbert Emmerich, of the American Committee for International Municipal Cooperation and Carlos M. Moran, General Secretary of the Organization.

Dr. Carlos Moran announced, that following the custom and rule established for congresses of this kind in this country (United States of America), several persons had been selected by chance to sit at the speaker's table and thus afford them the opportunity of saying a few words to the members of the Congress stating their viewpoints on its work and the advantages that may be derived therefrom. That Mr. Daniel W. Hoan who for 23 years was elected Mayor of Milwaukee, the only case of the kind in the municipal history of his country, and who had always defended and promoted the intermunicipal movement had been chosen to preside over the luncheon in homage to all the municipalities of America. That each speaker would be given five minutes and that at other luncheons other would be given the opportunity to speak. He also referred to the presence of ex-United States Senator, James P. Pope, one of the Commissioners of the Tennessee Valley Authority who invited any of the members of the Congress who wished to do so, to visit his organization and see what it had accomplished.

Mr. Hoan took the chair, made several special announcements of interest to the Congress, referred again to ex-Senator Pope and his kind invitation, spoke on the organization and its work and introduced Mr. Pablo Bernal Restrepo, Mayor of Medellin, Colombia.

Mr. Bernal Restrepo said that by chance he had been given the privilege of being the first speaker before the working sessions of the Congress; that he was glad to be in the hospitable city of New Orleans which he already loved since, just as his city was, it was the result of Spanish civilization and later of French influence. That his country always worked for mutual understanding

between the countries of America and that his task had always been to improve the relations between all the countries of America through what he called solidarity and Pan Americanism. He thanked the Mayor of New Orleans and the officials of the city for their hospitality and expressed the hope that the Congress would succeed in strengthening the growing inter-American municipal movement.

The next speaker was Mr. Garnet Coulter, Mayor of Winnipeg, Canada. He said that on his arrival in New Orleans he had been interviewed by the press, and that the reporters were surprised to find a Canadian so far South meeting with persons from Latin America and the United States. That it seems they believed that there was something suspicious in this and thought that perhaps his trip had been made to seek trade for his country. That he assured them that he was not here on a business trip but merely on a mission of international good will and to learn what he could from this interchange of ideas on municipal affairs from municipal officials and representatives from so many countries, because, after all, the problems of the municipalities of Latin America, just as those of Canada and the United States, are almost the same; that we all realized the importance of municipal government in the organization of any country and that an interchange of viewpoints, which is what is achieved by a meeting of this kind, is always advantageous. That this Organization and this Congress are both a very interesting experiment in the field of public relations and that the more that was learned from this interchange of ideas the better would things be for all of us. That he brought with him the greetings of the Municipal Council of Winnipeg to all the members of the Congress and that although he was not the official mouthpiece of the Canadian members of the Congress, whom the Congress would hear from later on, he wanted to avail himself of the opportunity to express his appreciation to the Mayor and municipal officials of New Orleans for the fine hospitality that had been tendered them. He invited the members of the Congress to visit Winnipeg whenever they might have a chance to do so.

The next speaker was Mr. Juan Scasso, personal representative of the Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay. He spoke in general terms along the line of the speakers that preceded him. That this Congress was discussing very great and important ideals which are intermunicipality and Pan Americanism. That the cities of his country had been founded and planned by the primitive Spanish colonizers and that the Law of the Indies was as good a code of urbanism and city planning as could ever be conceived by man. That the origin of government in America is found in its cities. That before there were nations in America there had been fully established municipalities, and that before nations were nations cities were already cities. That the voice that arose from the cities of South America led many countries to freedom thus becoming free and independent nations. That this Congress fulfils its duty and will be a further link in the chain of the beneficial bonds of Pan Americanism. That in cities we do things as citizens and that the very word citizen comes from city. That all the nations represented here have the same feelings since all speak the same language, the language of the municipal-

ities; that we all want to take advantage of the ideas and experiences of others for a better understanding between the nations of America. That he is a champion of Pan Americanism and firm believer in the same, and that just as the birds emigrate from the North toward the South carrying with them the spirit of the Northern countries and sing the music of both continents uniting them into a single song, the spirit of Pan-Americanism flourishes and endures. He closed by expressing his fervent wishes for the success of the Congress.

The chair was then occupied by Mr. Elmer Robinson, Mayor of San Francisco, California who stated that although he did not speak nor understand Spanish he nevertheless understood what had been said by the speakers that had preceded him due to the manner in which they spoke and because he knew they were expressing the same ideas that he had in mind; that this was a great occasion since it serves for us to become better acquainted and this is what really gives value to Congresses of this kind. He spoke of the centennial of his city; explained its growth during those hundred years into a city of commercial and industrial importance and of the amount of its municipal budget. That like all the cities of the North and the South it has its problems, but that they are not pessimists and go along solving them, preparing a better standard of living for its citizens, and that inasmuch as something is always learned at these congresses, he is here to learn something from others. That the problems with which all municipalities are faced are almost the same, problems of housing, city planning, parking, traffic, taxation; that of the revenue collected little remains after the necessary expenditures are paid for. He refers to what was said by the Mayor of Winnipeg and states that he is not here seeking trade but to contribute to this movement which is so important because due to it we will all benefit. He wants everyone to know that his city has the same feeling of good will toward the others as has been expressed here and that his city is ready to cooperate in this great intermunicipal movement. He refers to the historical background of San Francisco stating that it also has Spanish forbears; that there were 14 Spanish alcaldes and that the Franciscans with their missions have allowed the Spanish influence to be felt. He expressed his wishes for the success of the Congress and invites all its members to visit San Francisco.

The next speaker was Mr. Juan Ibarra, Chief of the delegation from Guatemala, who stated that attracted by the noble invitation of the City of New Orleans we had met here to learn a great deal; that Guatemala, interested in the ideals of intermunicipality, had not hesitated in attending the Congress and that he and all the Delegates from Guatemala, whom he introduced, were ready to cooperate and learn a great deal. He spoke in glowing terms of the city of New Orleans and its fine hospitality and closed by expressing his wishes for the success of the Congress.

Finally Mr. Hoan made several announcements regarding the future business of the Congress and after congratulating all the speakers for their fine expressions, closed the activities of this fine luncheon.

Tuesday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.

Banquet in honor of His Excellency the President of Chile, mister Gabriel Gonzalez Videla and his wife,

offered by Mayor De Lesseps S. Morrison and wife and by the Third Meeting of the Inter American Congress of Municipalities.

After the orquestra played the national anthems of Chile and the United States of America, the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Wallace M. Davis started the ceremonies.

The invocation was given by Rev. Canon William S. Turner, B. D., Rector of the Trinity Episcopal Church.

When it was time for the toasts the Honorable De Lesseps S. Morrison announced that he had received a massage from His Exellency mister Harry S. Truman, President of the United States, which reads as follows:

Message from President Truman.

Please extend my cordial greetings to the third Interamerican Congress of Municipalities and to President Gonzalez Videla and your many other guests from the American Republics and from Canada who are taking part in your deliberations. I congratulate the Interamerican Congress of Municipalities on its efforts to strengthen and improve local self-government throughout the hemisphere as one of the bulwarks of freedom and democracy.

Mr. Morrison said that he was very much pleased at receiving that valued message which was a magnificent stimulus for the work which was to be carried on by the Inter American Municipal Organization. That when he returned from the war and was elected Mayor of New Orleans, being convinced of the need of intensifying the friendly relations between countries, he devoted a large portion of his activities to this end, having visited the capital cities of America where he always found a hearty welcome and that now he had the pleasure of welcoming the delegates of all the countries of America which had come to his city to hold this important Congress in which there would surely be adopted resolutions of great benefit to the municipalities and the bonds of friendly neighborliness would be further tightened. That it was a great honor for the city to have as its guest the illustrious President of Chile, His Excellency Mr. Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, his wife and other distinguished personalities such as Mr. Horacio Walker, Minister of Foreign Relations of Chile; His Excellency, the Ambassador of that Republic before the United Nations; His Excellency Mr. Luis Quintanilla, President of the Organization of American States; His Excellency Mr. Paul C. Daniels, Ambassador of the United States of America before that organization; Mr. Manuel Trucco, Under Secretary of Foreign Relations of Chile; mister Louis Brownlow, Director General of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation and all the other distinguished guests that were taking part in the Third Meeting of the Inter American Congress of Municipalities.

That he deemed it a very high honor to be able to tender this homage to His Excellency the President of Chile, Mr. Gabriel Gonzalez Videla.

Thereupon Mr. Lloyd J. Cobb, in behalf of the citizens Committee, welcomed all those that were present.

Mr. Louis Brownlow then spoke and repeated that he was acting as President of the Third Meeting of the Inter American Congress of Municipalities due to the absence of its President, Dr. Antonio Beruff Mendieta which was much regretted.

He thanked The Honorable mister De Lesseps S. Morrison for his magnificent hospitality and fine gesture in inviting the Pan American Commsiion on Intermunicipal Cooperation to hold its Third Congress in this City. He said that he was honored in being able to offer this homage to His Excellency the President of Chile, Mr. Gabriel González Videla, in the name of the Congress, because at all times Chile had been one of the strong bulwarks of this movement and that it had never hesitated in giving it its most decided support. He stated that every organization needed the services of someone who could maintain its continuity, who was in charge of its daily work and the great efforts which often were unknown and that the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation had the good fortune of finding such a person in Dr. Carlos M. Moran, its Secretary, whom he was pleased to introduce at this time.

Dr. Carlos M. Moran, greatly moved by this tribute to his person came to the microphone and affectionately embraced Mr. Brownlow. He said that he deeply appreciated this gesture and the words of mister Brownlow, that this was due in a great measure to the great affection that Mr. Brownlow had for him and that he responded thereto with his filial affection for Mr. Brownlow. That it is true that he has struggled with loyalty and enthusiasm for this Organization but that his sacrifices would have meant nothing had he not had the extraordinary and decided support of men like Louis Brownlow, a man of such exceptional conditions in all aspects and a formidable fighter for this cause of international municipal cooperation, and of the other members of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation Messrs Luis L. Boffi of Argentina, Rafael Xavier of Brazil, Manuel Rodó of Costa Rica, Hector Romero Menendez of Ecuador, Ricardo Gonzalez Cortes of Chile, Daniel W. Hoan, of the United States of America, Raphael Brouard, of Haiti and Aurelio Sergio Vieyra, of Mexico, who since 1938 had assumed the difficult task of guiding the steps of the Organization in different parts of America; of countries like Chile, the United States of America, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Cuba and of the City of Havana which has always given its financial support without which nothing could have been achieved.

That it was also necessary to express his gratitude to organizations such as the "Public Administration Clearing House" of Chicago which has always acted paternally toward the Pan American Commission; the Pan American Union, with which the most cordial relations have always been maintained and also the Honorable De Lesseps S. Morrison, Mayor of this City, to whose generosity and clear concept of good neighborliness was due the great satisfaction of everyone at being able to hold here the Third Meeting of the Inter American Congress of Municipalities. That the honor of having this Third Meeting presided over by His Excellency the President of Chile brought to his memory how in the year 1945, being in the company of the member of the Executive Committe, Mr. Ricardo Gonzalez Cortes at a travel office in Santiago de Chile, mister Gonzalez Videla entered to whom he was introduced with a clear prophecy: "I have the pleasure of introducing you to my good friend Mr. Gabriel Gonzalez Videla whom I believe will some day be the President of Chile and will be very useful to us in our task, because he is decidedly

a person interested in municipal affairs". The years went by and the prophecy came true, said Dr. Moran.

Presentation of Parchments.

He then announced that "The Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, mouthpiece of the needs and interests of the municipalities of America and promoter of bringing them into closer relationship in order to make more effective the Good Neighbor policy among our countries, democracy truer, better governments and a higher standard of living of the people in every municipality, was honored by: 1. Expressing to His Excellency the President of Chile, its appreciation for having honored the Third Meeting of the Inter American Congress of Municipalities that is being held in this city, by presiding over the same; 2. In joining its efforts to those of the Organization of American States and in proclaiming its President, Honorary President of the Inter American Municipal Organization and 3. To express its appreciation to the City of New Orleans for its hospitality as the seat of the Third Meeting of the Inter American Congress of Municipalities".

Dr. Moran then delivered three beautiful diplomas to His Excellency, the President of Chile, to His Excellency Mr. Luis Quintanilla and to the Honorable De Lesseps S. Morrison, containing those declarations.

His Excellency the President of Chile expressed his appreciation, ratified the words spoken by him at the inuagural session, congratulated Mr. Morrison for his work of bringing the peoples of America closer together as well as the City of New Orleans for its progress and magnificent future and expressed his wishes for the success of the Third Meeting of the Inter American Congress of Municipalities.

The proceedings ended by the blessing which was given by His Eminence, the Very Reverend Joseph Francis Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans.

Wednesday, May 3rd. 6:00 p.m.

Reception at the International House.

This was the hour in which the reception tendered at the International House by the President of the Celotex Company, Mr. Mansell and his wife, was held. An enjoyable time being had by all the delegates attending the same.

Trips on the Mississippi River.

On the 3rd and 4th of May, at 12:00 M., delegates to the III Meeting enjoyed a broat trip and luncheon on the Mississippi River and visited the Celotex factory in route.

Friday, May 5, 10:00 a.m.

Visit to the French Quarter.

Wives of the delegates were invited to a tour of the French Quarter and to the Television Studios WDSU-TV, with luncheon in the Metairie Country Club.

11.45 a.m.

Bolivar Avenue's film.

Delegates admired the extraordinary progress in construction of the magnificent Bolivar Avenue in Caracas, thanks to the showing of an instructive film by the delegation from Venezuela.

Friday, May 5, 12:30 p.m.

Luncheon given by civic organizations of New Orleans.

Toastmaster was doctor Augusto Pumarino the representative of municipalities of Valparaiso and Viña del Mar (Chile), with remarks by the following:

Mr. C. C. Walter, president of the local organizing committee and of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce. He explained that the luncheon was given by the city's civic organizations. He said the city was honored by its distinguished guests and that he was afraid that the city's hospitality, though offered with the best will, would not be such as New Orleans would wish for its neighbor cities of America. Mr. Walter said New Orleans offered port, industrial and commercial facilities which he was confident could be useful for commerce to all the countries of the Americas; that the International House, the International Chamber of Commerce, etc., were institutions created for the better understanding between all men in the hemisphere; and concluded by thanking the delegates for having held their meeting in New Orleans, which he said he believed had been successful, and voicing the hope that all delegates had found their stay in the city pleasant and that they would return often.

Mayor Ernesto McCausland of Barranquilla, Colombia, expressed thanks for Mr. Walter's expression of hospitality so magnificently given to the delegates. He said his city had a certain resemblance to New Orleans in that it was on the big Magdalena river close to the sea, so that there existed also, on the other side of the Hemisphere, possibilities such as had been utilized by New Orleans, and that for himself and all the other citizens of Barranquilla he could extend a similar invitation to all to visit his city with the certainty that they would be received with open arms in a frank demostration of veritable inter-American friendship.

Mr. Jose Mª Bens Arrarte, representing the Provincial College of Architects and that of the City of Havana, spoke feelingly of the magnificent spirit of the city of New Orleans, which he said combined its monuments and memories of the French civilization with the driving force of the present American nation. He referred to the beauties of the city which he compared to those of Havana, with its colonial streets and architecture in the old city and its efforts to conserve and beautify these monuments of the past. He told of his intimate friendship with Ruy de Lugo Viña, to whom was due the initiative for the movement which resulted in this meeting; expressed his thanks for the hospitality to the delegates; expressed his wishes for the success of the Congress and added his hope that New Orleans would always retain its character and avoid domination by material forces.

Mayor José D. Bazan of Colon, Panamá, expressed briefly his tranks for the hospitality given to the delegates, referred to the efforts in his country to create the Association of Municipalities of Panama, which he said would work closely in coordination with the Organization to attain municipal autonomy, better government and living conditions in the cities; and concluded by pointing out that his city also was an international city on the Panama

Canal and inviting all present to visit Colon and discover its hospitality.

Antonio Pezzolo, representing the Brazilian Association of Municipalities, expressed his thanks for all the attentions shown to the delegates by the city authorities and officials of the Congress; expressed his satisfaction at having been able to visit the beautiful city of New Orleans and attend the Third meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities; and said that in the previous month of April more than 1600 municipalities had been represented at the First National Congress of Municipalties in Brazil, from which he could extend the warmest greetings of sympathy and friendship to all the municipalities of the hemisphere. He added that all the cities of Brazil and especially Santo Andrés, in the state of São Pãolo, to which municipality he belonged and where industrial progress was marked, would welcome the opportunity to receive visits from delegates of the Congress.

Mr. Manuel R. Villacorta, chief of the Municipal Inspection Department of the Ministry of Interior of El Salvador, expressed his thanks for the attentions received by the delegates; and added that although his was a small country and the city of San Salvador also was small, this did not mean that his thanks and his message of greeting for the authorities and organizations of New Orleans and for the delegates to the Congress should be less considered because they sprang from the most sincere and spontaneous feeling.

Mr. Jorge Concha, representing Ecuador, said he could best express the gratitude of the delegates for the hospitality they had received because he was a resident of the city as Consul General for his country.

Mr. German Cruz Ayala, representing the government of the Dominican Republic, eulogized the authorities of New Orleans and its civic organizations for the interest in the Congress and the kindness shown to the delegates; and declared the permanent support of his country for the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation, with cordial salutations to all in his own name and that of the authorities of his country.

Mr. Augusto Pumarino, who acted as chairman, noted that the speaker's table was honored by the presence of the architect Carlos Maruri, Chief of the Architecture and Urbanism Department of the City of Havana; and after making certain announcements concerning the Congress, adjourned the luncheon.

Friday, May 5, 6:30 p.m.

Final reception and dinner dance given by Mayor and Mrs. deLesseps S. Morrison...

BRAZIL

FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS OF BRAZILIAN MUNICIPALITIES.

From the 2nd to the 9th of April, 1950, representatives of the Brazilian municipalities met at Petropolis, for the celebration of the First National Congress of Brazilian Municipalities.

In vierw of the necessity of systema tizing the fundamental points of a municipal policy of national ambit, promulgated the following.

Charter of Declaration of Principles, Rights and Municipal Demands.

I. In the belief that any attempt to effect a violent change of an estabilished juridical order acts fundamentally against the municipal autonomy, the Municipal Governments, through their vested powers and as representatives of the Brazilian people, hind themselves to strengthen, through respect for the Constitution and laws, the democratic representative regime of Federation and Republic maintained by the United States of Brazil.

II. All the Brazilian Municipalities are juridically and politically equal, constituting the Nation and the States. devoted to their function of defending the traditions and ideals that reign over the historical formation of the nation and the political evolution of the nationality. In this respect paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 28 of the Federal Constitution, the suppression of which is recommended, as contrary to municipal autonomy.

III. The autonomy of the municipality, which conforms with democratic norms, is based in substance on its institution, constitution and political organizations, put into effect by:

a) The direct election of the Mayor and councilmen;

b) The drafting of its own Organic Law, respecting the proper constitutional limits of Federal or State jurisdiction;

c) The immunity of its councilmen;

d) Its own administration as regards its own peculiar interests and specially:

—its own income obtained from the taxes under its jurisdiction, its own property and services, as weil as from other sources provided for in the Constitution and laws;

—the organization of the local public services.

2. The effectiveness of the autonomy assured by the Federal Constitution to the municipalities implies a just and proper distribution of public obligations and duties among the three administrative spheres of the organization of the Republic, the present failure of reaching a precise definition thereof causing difficulties in the exercise of the powers of the Government.

3. In the measure that the public services are more productive and useful greater is the area of action and responsibility attributed to the municipalities. For that reason, the inaccurate and vague manner in which the Constitution defines the municipal functions and services does not satisfy the interests of the community, making it essential to limit the administrative area of the municipality.

4. The solution of the political-administrative problems of the locality, bound closely to the social-economic structure of the municipalities, is the basis of the exercise of the prerrogatives of municipal autonomy.

5. The political development of the nation depends essentially on the progress of the municipal democracy, this being characterized by the full obedience of the juridical-administrative principles consecrated by the Federal Constitution in relation to the municipality, as well as by the guarantee of public freedom.

6. The municipalities need autonomy and capacity for action to such a degree that they will be able to see that all the citizens of a community will feel the healthful sentiment of responsibility for the wrongs they suffer and will acquire the conviction that the exercise of their rights and duties as citizens grants them an effective means of correcting such wrongs.

7. The Brazilian Municipalities recommend the enactment of a Federal supplementary law, by which will be regulated, in view of the priniples embodied in this Declaration, the general provisions of the Constitution and of the regular legislation of the Union concerning the municipalities.

IV

1. The Brazilian Municipalities recognize and proclaim the advantages of interadministrative cooperation, recommending as the most adequate formula for the solution of the problems of common interest of the different levels of the government which constitute the political organizations of a federative nature. The Union, the States and the Municipalities should join their efforts and resources, through agreements, conventions or multilateral contracts, for the solution of the problems of general interest, mainly those that are related to education, health, agriculture and transportation.

2. The organization of groups of municipalities in the same geo-economic region, is considered of fundamental importance for the planning and execution of public services whose effect and economic value go beyond the possibilities of a single municipal administration, in order to make possible through intergovernmental cooperation, the solution of problems of common interest to the respective administrations.

3. The recourse to interadministrative cooperation through the organization of municipal partnerships is advised for the solution of problems related to the execution of essential public services, whose installation and operation require, as a general rule, expenditures beyond the financial capacity of the municipalities, such as: electric power, telephones, water supply, garbage disposal and sanitation, development of production and the taking of foodstuffs to the local consumer markets, transportation routes, cultural development, public health, credit and financing.

As supplementary thereto, and in order to provide a greater facility for entering into agreements for the solution of local problems, the following are advised:

a) loans, to be made by the municipalities from resources necessary for the construction or enlargement, on their own account, of electric power plants or telephone central stations;

b) the acquisition by associated municipalities and for rental purposes, of machinery or other

agricultural equipment, after previous training of the necessary personnel for their operation;

c) the establishment and maintenance, through contributions from th associated municipalities, of rural normal schools, high schools, professional schools, agricultural schools or any other specialized institutions of learning required by the locality;

d) the establishment of exchange schools where physicians may become specialists in lung diseases, the establishment of a thoracic census of the population of school age and compulsory B. C. G., vaccination;

e) the carrying on, with the collaboration of the associated municipalities, of an intensive campaign against tuberculosis, directed to the people in general, and centered principally in teaching institutions;

f) the installation, for treating the population of the area covered by the associated municipalities, of hospitals, sanatoriums and ambulatory units against tuberculosis;

g) the creation of regional banks under a cooperative structure; making use of the resources not only of the municipalities but also of private individuals, destined possibly to serve as the basis for a future institution of municipal credit.

4. The adequate method of setting up the intermunicipal partnerships and the entering into of agreements, arrangements or contracts by the interested Governments should permit, as a convenient measure, the participation of the respective State or territory. The purposes of the agreement and the fundamental rules of procedure for the organization and operation of the partnership will be contained in the instrument of agreement.

The City Councils of the associated municipalities will have the power to ratify the agreements, the Legislative Assembly being able to do so only when it is incumbent upon the State to participate in the cases which cover commitments, activities or benefits of the State administration.

The direction and execution of the enterprise that originated the agreement will be confided to as many representatives as there be contracting Municipalities, as well as to the State, when proper in spite of the direct supervising of the interested public powers.

5. The intermunicipal cooperation may be advisable even when the carrying on of the agreements, contracts or covenants may suggest the creation of organizations for economical purposes. Thus, this vinculation will be complemented by the interest shown on the economical results of the enterprise, on which may participate persons or juridical bodies.

6. For the moral of the inter-administrative cooperation it is recommended that the Municipalities offer a complete support to all the agreements in force signed in accordance with the principles of inter-administrative cooperation. Among these principles, because of its compatibility with the actual political order in force and the ample resource of intergovernmental cooperation, the Agreements signed with the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics are particularly projected, because they offer the most efficient formula for the performance of a public service of local interest, and which Institute has colaborated in great manner to the success of the First National Congress of Brazilian Municipalities.

V

The Constitution dedicates attention as of particular interest to Municipalities, to the activities in the life of the citizenship, including not only those public services actually under the responsability of Mayors and City Councils, that is water supply, sewerage and electric power plants, but also social assistance, education, police, justice administration, transportation facilities, public health, production and credit standings. It would be necessary for the better effciency of these services pertaining to activities of interest to the Nation, the State and the Municipality as well, to have community, participation in its effectiveness, in order to best attend the necessities of the local populations.

VI

It may be considered as characteristically adventcgeous to the order, for the purposes established in item 4 of Article 15 of the Federal Constitution, that the expenses incurred in the performance of works or service be met, pertaining to necessities of collective nature in rural zone, without compelling the Municipalities, never, to the payment of any taxation or contribution for enjoying such benefits

VII

Tourism, as a governmental activity, should have its problems solved according to the principles of inter-administrative cooperation inasmuch as the movement provoked by the touristic centers may bring about events of interest to more than one State or local government. It is therefor necessary to study closely all touristical problems as a whole or at least those which refer to watering places hydrotherapeutic and climatical camps, swimming centers or historical cities, as well as to destine especial funds for the improvement of such centers.

VIII

The battle against rural emigration and the measures tending to fix men to earth have, in a way of saying, the Municipalities as battlefields. The City Council should, therefore, be allowed to participate in the planning of all steps to be taken to this purpose and to assist cooperatively in the solution of the problem, taking into consideration its own peculiarities.

IX

The Municipalities will be able to cooperate with real advantages in the supervising of federal laws of local interest, such as Hunting, Fishing and Forest Regulations, as well as to participate in the work of Federal or State offices located at the cities in order to see that all such mattes are properly carried out. Administrative or legislative measures in order, should be promoted as they be deemed necessary to this purpose.

X

1. The bases of organization for social welfare and security should be changed so that the same benefits, rights, guarantees and obligations will be granted or demanded from those insured, whatever might be the organization to which they may belong.

The benefits of social welfare and security should be extended within a

short time to the populations in the rural zones of the country. It equally seems necessary to protect the municipal servers of the country in a proper manner, revoking the legal dispositions that may create obstacles in this respect.

It is important to establish the system of unemployment insurance according to provisions embodied in the Consttiution, in order to complement the organization of social welfare.

In order better to look after the real living conditions in the country, an amount of at least four thousand "cruzeiros" should be fixed (ab. 200 US. Dollars) as a base limit for contributions of the insured to social security institutions.

From the view-point of specific municipal interest the following resolutions are considered essencial, the inmediate adoption of whch is demanded by the local populations from the institutions of social welfare and security.

a) In the Municipalities where the number of beneficiaries of each institution be small, medical services should be installed for the benefit of all the local insured as a whole. These services could be financed and maintained through the cooperation of the various institutions;

b) Investment of the reserve-fund of social security, not only in real estate markets of large cities, but also in small municipal centers, as a contribution towards the solution of the housing problem.

c) Contribution of the institutions for the betterment of the food facilities of the people, through financing of popular restaurants, municipal agricultural cooperatives, or foodstuff.

d) Application of part of the reserve-funds of social security based on a self-payment plan, with those minimum interest and long terms, to local enterprises including cattle raising for cattle breeding and agricultural development, as well as by granting loans to contributors;

e) Decentralization of the social security welfare administrations in order to facilitate the contact between the institutions and the insured, and to guarantee a more rapid procedure in the concession of their benefits;

f) At least 50% of the funds collected by the social welfare and security institutions should be employed in the Municipalities wherein collected or in adjacent municipalities;

3. It is the duty of the social welfare and security institutions to furnish any information to bodies of the Public Power, the Union, the States, territories and Municipalities.

4. The most important resolution to be applied is that the Union and some States should cancel any amounts owed to the institutions of social welfare and security, so that the needs of the Municipalities can be attended accordingly, and principally, so that the Brazilian social insurance will not be extinguished.

XI

The self-governing and state institutions for the defense and development of production should transfer their sites to the regions of greater activity, production or manufacture of the products to whose defense and development they are devoted in order that through a direct contact with the problems involved they may be better fitted for carrying on their respective functions. The transfer thus recommended should be implemented by executive decentralization in order that the protective activity or the

development may be manifested in all the interested municipalities.

XII

There are organs in the public administration of the country, created under the Constitution of 1937 which still carry on the same powers which were attributed to them under the regime of extreme political and administrative centralization then in force. The activities of said organs are not in harmony with the right that the Federal Constitution grants to the municipalities of deliberating autonomously on those matter which concern their own peculiar interests.

XIII

1. The municipalities recognize the municipal concept consecrated in the Federal Constitution of September 18, 1946, which still requires the absolute fulfilment of its provisions relative to the discrimination or distribution of revenue.

2. The municipalities demand, in accord with the increase in resources, the responsibility for new services, to be transferred to them together with the revenue with which they now contribute for the respective services from the budgets of the Union and the States.

The immediate transfer to the municipalities is requested by the rural land taxes as is provided in Article 29 of the Federal Constitution, without prejudice to a later reform which will place this matter on a definitive basis.

3. The municipalities further demand, as an immediate solution, a constitutional amendment which will allow them, within a reasonable time and progressively, to obtain at least 40% of the public revenue collected in the country, either by establishing new taxes or by a greater participation in the federal and state revenues.

4. The municipalities seek to receive at least one-half of the percentage quota (60%) of the national highways fund belonging to the States, Territories and Municipalities, this being allocated in consideration of the importance of the receipts from their budgets.

As a basic element in the increase of their share in the highways fund, the municipalities should prepare projects for the linking of municipal highways, the carrying out of which should be done by them.

The turning over of the percentage quotas of the national highways fund to the municipalities should be handled directly by the National Highways Department through the medium of the Federal Collection Offices and the Agencies of the Bank of Brazil or through any other nearer local means, the supervision of the application thereof being exclusively in charge of the municipal legislative bodies.

5. The municipalities seek from the National Congress, without prejudice to the supplementary legislation to be enacted by the States, the regulation of Article 20 of the Federal Constitution. They further recommend the convenience that the said supplementary law shall contain the following provisions, among others:

a) Rules relative to the determination of the total State revenue attributed to each municipality from sales taxes and assignments from other taxes the collection of which may lead to doubts as to their geographical distribution;

b) The fixing of a restrictive meaning to the words "local revenue of any nature".

c) The establishment of penalties against the States that refuse to fulfil this law.

6. The need of an immediate regulation of Article 15, Nº III Par. 2 of the Federal Constitution is also recognized, in the portion relative to mining and electric power, in order that the interested municipalities may make use of the proper tax advantages.

In municipalities where mining is being conducted and where electric power is used, should be guaranteed at least a minimum of 50% of the taxes imposed on mining or electric power, respectively. The collection of the taxes, at least of the municipal quota, should be made directly by the interested municipalities.

7. The Congress, considering vital to the interests of the municipalities that the quotas which are due them under the provisions of the constitution be delivered to them, recommends to the local governments to appeal to the Courts in order to receive said quotas. The Congress also recognizes the highest municipal purposes of the Governments that have fulfilled said constitutional provisions which makes them so worthy of confidence and moral support.

An appeal is made to the States that find it impossible to make a full payment of the constitutional quotas, in the sense of not making use of a discriminatory treatment as regards any municipality.

In order better to meet the local administrative needs it is highly convenient that the payment to the municipalities of the quota portion of the income tax be made in full and a single time, during the third quarter of each year, and the exclusive right of the Municipal Councils with regard to the supervision of the exclusive use thereof should be recognized.

8. The aid and subsidies granted to municipalities and to private entities for their needs are evident signs of governmental cooperation. In order that said resources may be used advantageously it is essential no rectrictions other than those that may be necessary to insure their proper application be made.

The amounts assigned in the budget of the Union for use by the municipalities should be turned over directly to them, without prejudice to the powers of the municipal governments, pursuant to agreements, when proper, between the interested authorities.

9. The municipalities request the monthly receipt, directly from the Federal Collection Offices, of 50% of the local collections made for "Education and Health" purposes, which amount will be applied to the solution of social welfare problems.

10. The tax or levy on tourism should come under the exclusive jurisdiction of the municipality, to be collected at places of acknowledged historical significance or classified as watering places or climatical centers, the proceeds from such collections to be used for the embellishment of said places and for the conservation of their touristic attractions.

XIV

1. The Brazilian municipalities proclaim the need of the enactment of a National Tax Code in which shall be established the general rules to be followed and supplemented as an essential measure of the three governmental spheres through a proper delimitation of the fields of jurisdiction and obedience of the basic rules of a tax policy established on a national basis. It is therefore conve-

nient to suspend for the time being the discussions regarding the State Tax Codes now taking place in the Legislative Assemblies.

And the Congress recommends the immediate calling of the Second National Conference of Tax Legislation.

2. The establishment of the municipality as the sole collector is a municipal aspiration to be attained in the future.

XV

1. The Brazilian municipalities recognize the need of planning, considering this to be an outstanding factor of wellbeing, general security and progress essential to the better participation of the municipal administration in the economic, social and cultural activities carried on for the benefit of the local community.

The lack of proper planning reduces the economic capacity of the municipality and endangers the success of measures destined to assure social stability to the municipalities and at the same time considerably aggravates the precarious situation in which the majority of villages, towns, cities and municipalities in Brazil find themselves.

Planning is the factor that modernizes and enchances the local administration, and through proper planning it becomes possible for the municipalities to achieve a better use of human, natural and institutional resources of the communities.

In this respect, all the municipalities should proceed to carry on a rigurous movement which as the basic start for the preparation of a plan for the solution of the local problems will include not only action or measures leading to an improvement of the standard of living of the local peoples but also proper studies concerning the exploration, use, conservation and development of mineral, forest, agricultural, cattle and industrial productions.

2. The preparation of directive plans should have in mind the convenience of providing for the common needs of the adjacent municipalities, as well as the establishment of measures which will insure:

a) the regulation of urban subdivisions in order to guarantee minimum conditions as to facilities for access thereto, the existence of public improvements and the reservation of areas for parks and schools;

b) reforestation as an essential factor for the protection of the soil and waters;

c) A fiscal regime that will prevent the stagnation of economic initiatives;

d) an obligatory participation by the administration in campaigns for the defense of public health, to combat plagues and damage to plants and animals, taking special interest in maintaining a permanent fight against poisonous and other destructive ants; the establishment of recreation centers by private initiative as well public; the construction of athletic fields and playgrounds; and to handle urban matters in cooperation with the specialized departments of the State;

e) Cultural extension in cooperation with private institutions after a specialized corps of servers has been prepared mainly through educational centers, libraries, the theatre, radio, the press and through tax facilities to the book industry and trade.

XVI

The participation of the municipal administration in the economic, social and cultural activities of the community should seek principally to increase the economic capacity of the municipality through elements

capable of fixing and stabilizing the people within their own environment. Measures which will contribute to this objective established by the municipalities for the purposes listed below are considered essential:

a) the joining of efforts to the end that facilities may be granted for the development of industries, by advertising the conditions of the municipality in order to attract capital and encouraging an enlargement of the agricultural and live stock developments already existing or those that may be organized;

b) the establishment of agricultural-live stock centers or other services for the development and assistance of the rural population and the cooperation with and maintenance of those already existing created by the Ministry of Agriculture of the state governments;

c) the creation of regional schools or institutions for minors, of different kinds, in accord with the economic activities of the region;

d) Rural exploration as a means of economic development and not as a source of public revenue, facilitating the acquisition at cost not only of materials for agricultural exploration, selected seeds and agricultural machinery, but also of small farms;

e) The use of the nationally owned lands, or those owned by the state or the municipality, giving preference to the people of empoverished zones and to the unemployed, in the manner provided in Article 156 of the Federal Constitution;

f) Stimulus for the creation of cooperative organizations for production, consumption and credit, which will provide the means for the farmer to finance his products and provide storage facilities, as well as for the establishment of rural associations for economic and social action purposes;

g) The creation and maintenance of services in the towns or subdistricts, when any exist, or in villages, such services to supervise the municipal collections and state aid or fiscalizations as well as to carry on social and cultural activities for the benefit of the local population;

h) A collaboration with federal, state or private organizations in the establishment of Farm-Schools, Agricultural colonies or colonial groups, mainly in the areas more greatly affected by the existence of large land holdings and by prohibiting the enlistment of rural workers by elements;

i) To encourage popular festivities promoted by organized groups or by those that may be organized for the purpose, in order to carry on in public and gratuitously, traditional festivals of regional folklore, including the granting of facilities therefor and free from any taxes;

j) the installation, with the cooperation of private persons, of small minerealogy museums for the purpose of encouraging the knowledge of the riches of the country and an interchange of specimens between the public or the National Department of Mineral Production;

l) the increase of the population of school age in collaboration with the State authorities for the purpose of making possible a better administration of teaching in charge of the municipalities and a more proficient application of the resources destined for that purpose;

m) the organization and maintenance through a portion of the revenue destined for teaching and public education, of playgrounds where the children, specially those of the less favored classes, will receive the necessary education and assistance;

n) the promotion, specially by the municipalities more greatly affected by the consequences of the rural exodus, of essential measures of colonization in the lands returned by the territories, on their exclusive responsibility or with the aid of the specialized organs of the Federal Government;

o) the direct importation of the machinery necessary for carrying on their services, demanding the putting in force of the constitutional provisions regarding tax exemption and applying them to the taxes levied on the entry of merchandise;

p) the creation of courses of municipal education in which, together with common fundamental instruction fundamentals of hygiene, geography and history of the municipality will be taught;

q) the admission in the municipal schools preferently of graduated teachers who are able to give lessons on hygiene as well as provide educational recreation amusements at the places where they work;

r) the establishment by the municipalities of each region of special credit establishments to meet their respective financial needs and to provide a basis for the establishment and development of personal credit;

s) To place the municipal administration on a reasonable basis through a change in the working methods and the creation of the necessary technical organs.

XVII

The municipal taxes collected from the districts should be applied therein, to the extent possible, after deducting the portions set aside for meeting general administration expenses.

XVIII

1. The National Congress of Brazilian Municipalities finally states that among the different measures favorable for providing for the needs and requirements of the respective municipalities and which at the same time will make possible for the local government effectively to exercise the powers which pertain to them, the following are outstanding:

a) the immediate sending to the National Congress and the conversion into law within a short period of time of the conclusions of the Third Conference of Experts on Public Accounting and Financial Matters in order that by consolidating budgetary uniformity, this will be fulfilled throughout the national territory, jointly by the union, the states and the municipalities;

b) The immediate regulation of the constitutional provisions relative to water and electric power to the end that the jurisdiction which the municipality has on these matters in accord with the provisions of Article 28, in relation to Article 5, letter 1 and articles 151 and 153 of the Federal Constitution may be finally recognized through a regular law;

c) The suspension by the Federal Government of all revisions of tariffs for the furnishing of power and light to the municipalities until the National Congress enacts a special law regulating the rules for the concession of public services under the constitutional provisions in force;

d) a reexamination of the division of the administrative regions of the units of the Federation for the purpose of making these be more in line with reality, providing each

regional seat with the necessary resources for carrying on the main public services in a way which will make possible the participation of representatives of the legislative and executive powers of the interested municipalities in councils which will direct the work of the respective region;

e) the taking every ten years of the general census of the republic for the success of wich the full support and collaboration of the government and peoples of the municipalities is recommended;

f) the granting of greater financial support to the small farmer through the credit establishments operated by the public powers and by private entities in order to provide loans for economic purposes and for the reduction of the taxes on property;

g) the unification and simplification of immigration and colonization services, either by establishing regions and zones for the same, in order to provide for the local and regional peculiarities;

h) a rational uniformity of the services of technical assistance to agriculture for a more efficient protection of the small farmer;

i) the suppression of the Price Commission attached to the Federal, State or Municipal Governments inasmuch as they are practically inactive.

j) the full release of the properties belonging to subjects of the nations that were at war with Brazil;

l) the stepping up by the proper organs of the construction of popular dwellings, following a plan that will benefit all the cities of the country;

m) the establishment of intensive and practical courses on the law and science of municipal administration at the proper educational establishments;

n) the carrying on by the public powers and private institutions of an intense publicity campaign of an educational nature against alcoholism;

o) providing financial aid to municipalities through the Bank of Brazil or other establishments of credit in which the public power has a participation, through loans with security consisting of a minimum of 80% of the quotas thereof from the National Highways Fund;

p) the inclusion of a representative of the Brazilian Association of Municipalities on the Highway Councils;

q) the immediate delivery by the State Government of the quotas of the National Highway Fund at present held by the State Highway Departments or Commissions;

r) to grant a bearing to the municipal authorities in the proceedings for granting concessions for intermunicipal collective transportation routes.

XIX

The Mayors and Municipal Councilmen meeting in the First National Congress of Brazilian Municipalities bind themselves to struggle for the inclusion of these conclusion they have reached in the platforms of their political parties and to demand, throgh the local representatives that may be elected, that they be later put into effect.

XX

The Brazilian Association of Municipalities, official organ of the municipalities of the nation, expressly endowed with the necessary authority, appears before the public authorities and private institutions, seeking the necessary measures to put into effect the conclusions of this Declaration of Principles.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PARADE AND INAUGURAL CEREMONIES OF THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

In the occasion of the inauguration of Hon. deLesseps S. Morrison for a new term of office, a very interesting parade was organized on May 1st., at 10:30 A.M.

Delegates to the III Meeting of the Inter-American Congress of Municipalities participated, riding in several automobiles bearing the flags of the 21 republics of America and of the Dominion of Canada.

This parade marched through the main streets to the City Hall, in front of which and in the open the inaugural ceremony took place.

After the invocation and the taking of the oath of office, Mr. deLesseps S. Morrison delivered a magnificent address analizing the work done by his administration in the past and announcing some of the plans and projects to be carried out during his new term of office.

REUNION DE ALCALDES ESTADOUNIDENSES

Del 11 al 13 de mayo, teniendo por sede el Hotel Waldorf-Astoria, en la ciudad de Nueva York, celebró su Conferencia de 1950, la "U. S. Conference of Mayors".

Esta Conferencia de 1950, al igual que las de años anteriores, fué un éxito, y entre las resoluciones que en la misma se tomaron, figura la que a continuación transcribimos relacionada con nuestra Organización:

Recomendar a todas las ciudades afiliadas que activamente se interesen en los trabajos y actividades de la

U. S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

The 1950 Annual Meeting of the U. S. Conference of Mayors took place at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in the City of New York, from May 11-13.

Among the resolutions adopted, it is of particular interest to our I.M.O., the following: "To recommend to all of the member cities to take active interest and facilitate all possible help to the work and activities of the I.U.L.A. and of the Pan American Commission on Intermunicipal Cooperation".

"Unión Internacional de Autoridades Locales" y de la "Comisión Panamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal", y faciliten a ambas organizaciones toda la ayuda necesaria.

ASOCIACION DE MUNICIPIOS ESTADOUNIDENSES

Texto de la resolución sobre Cooperación Municipal Inter-Americana adoptado por la Directiva de la Asociación Estadounidense de Municipalidades en su reunión anual celebrada en Denver, el 7 de Julio de 1950.

COOPERACION MUNICIPAL INTERNACIONAL

Con el fin de estimular universalmente la Democracia, la unión y solidaridad de los seres amantes de la libertad, la Asociación Estadounidense de Municipios apoya y propugna el programa de la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal que representa municipios de todas las naciones del Hemisferio Occidental; alabamos a la Organización con motivo de la III Reunión, celebrada en Nueva Orleans, La., del 2 al 5 de Mayo de 1950, y aprobamos las resoluciones y Estatutos adoptados en la misma, y para reafirmar su continuada cooperación, de todo corazón, la Asociación permanecerá afiliada como tal y urgirá de las ciudades afiliadas interesadas, que se afilien a la Organización Interamericana de Cooperación Intermunicipal.

La Asociación Estadounidense de Municipios promete además su apoyo a los municipios y organizaciones de ellos en cualquier parte, con la finalidad de promover independencia y libertad para sus pueblos.

AMERICAN MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

Text resolution on Inter-American Municipal Cooperation adopted by the American Municipal Association board at its annual board meetting in Denver, July 7, 1950.

INTERNATIONAL MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

In the interest of world wide Democracy, unity and solidarity of freedom-loving people, the American Municipal Association supports and endorses the program of the Inter-American Municipal Organization which represents municipalities of all the nations of the Western Hemisphere; we commend the Organization on the ocassion of its Third Congress held in New Orleans, La., May 2-5, 1950, and approve the resolutions and statutes adopted at its Congress, and in re-affirming its continued and wholehearted cooperation AMA will carry on its membership as a group and urge our interested member cities to become members of the Inter-American Municipal Organization.

The American Municipal Association further pledges its support to cities and organizations of cities everywhere to promote freedom and liberty for their people.

ORGANIZACIONES NACIONALES DE COOPERACION INTERMUNICIPAL

ARGENTINA: Asociación de Estudios Municipales. — Buenos Aires.

BRASIL: Associação Brasileira de Municipios, Río de Janeiro, D. F.

CANADA: Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. — Montreal.

COLOMBIA: Asociación de Municipios de Colombia. — Bogotá.

CUBA: Unión de Municipios Cubanos. — Palacio Municipal. — La Habana.

CHILE: Unión Nacional de Municipalidades de Chile. — Viña del Mar.

ECUADOR: Asociación Nacional de Municipios Ecuatorianos. — Quito.

EL SALVADOR: Corporación de Municipalidades de la República de El Salvador. — San Salvador.

EE. UU. DE AMERICA: The American Municipal Association.—Chicago, Illinois.

MEXICO: Confederación Nacional de Ayuntamientos de la República.—México, D.F.

PANAMA: Asociación de Municipios de Panamá. — Panamá.

REPCA. DOMINICANA: Liga Municipal Dominicana. — Ciudad Trujillo.

URUGUAY: Reunión de Autoridades Edilicias de la República. — Montevideo.

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